

Rebels use tanks in Jalalabad

KABUL (R) — Mujahideen rebels, using tanks and other armour against Afghan troops for the first time, have launched a fresh assault on the eastern city of Jalalabad, the Afghan government said Saturday. The attack on the city, surrounded by the rebels as seat of a provisional government proclaimed last month, had begun Thursday last. Afghan government aircraft had driven off the attackers, it added. Government spokesman Mohammad Nahi Amari also reported an attack Friday by 2,500 rebels on the city of Kandahar, 500 kilometres to the southwest, describing it as the most serious assault on the city to date. Civilian reports from Jalalabad, which like Kandahar is near the border with Pakistan, said a food shortage was becoming desperate, but the government spokesman said supply convoys had arrived in the city on three successive days up to Saturday. Earlier, an Afghan official called for direct talks with the United States and suggested a U.S. fact-finding mission visit Kabul to view the reality of life there after 10 years of war. "We want direct contacts with the United States on a political settlement," said the official, who is close to Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab newspaper published by the Press Syndicate
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Mahdi forms new coalition

KHARTOUM (R) — A new Sudanese coalition government which Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi says will be dedicated to reaching a peace settlement with rebels in the south was formed Saturday. A decree by the Supreme Council, the five-member collective presidency, named 17 ministers, with a retired army general and former diplomat taking over as defence minister. Six cabinet posts were left vacant. The new defence minister, General Osman Maharak Rahma, was pensioned off by the armed forces in the 1970s under now-onset leader Jafar Numeiri but later served as ambassador to China and Romania. The formation of the new coalition followed a month-long dispute with the army which said the government must make peace with anti-government rebels in the south or give greater backing to the war effort there. Four of the vacant posts were set aside for parties from southern Sudan, the fifth for Mahdi's Umma Party and the sixth for the small Sudan National Party. Press reports said the southern parties were divided over who should represent them in the cabinet. The new administration replaced a short-lived coalition in which Umma and the militant National Islamic Front (NIF) were the main partners.

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Jordan seeks swift accord with IMF

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan hopes to reach agreement with the IMF within two weeks on rescheduling its foreign debt, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai was quoted as saying Saturday.

"An exploratory mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is now in Amman and official talks will start on March 28," he told BBC radio's Arabic service in an interview also carried by Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"We hope to reach agreement on debt rescheduling within the next two weeks to enable us to deal with the situation we are facing," Rifai said.

Central Bank officials have said Jordan will also request a standby credit from the IMF, but have set no figure.

A World Bank team, with IMF observers, visited Amman last month to discuss a possible structural adjustment loan.

Rifai, who has said Jordan's civil and military debt amounts to \$6 billion, dismissed the idea that the IMF would link approval of a rescheduling plan with tough terms.

"If the IMF agrees to reschedule the debt, there will be no economic conditions from the IMF on the Jordanian government," he said. "The Jordanian government has taken all the corrective measures needed to restructure the Jordanian economy."

"There will be no conditions imposed on us. Of course, we will not accept any condition which he believe is against the interests of the country and the people," he said.

Jordanian officials have said they hoped to reach an agreement with the IMF as a prelude to further negotiations with the Paris Club of international lenders on debt rescheduling.

The Kingdom owes roughly \$1.2 billion this year on its total debt.

When help is requested, IMF officials work out an economic adjustment programme with debtor countries which generally includes IMF credits to help overcome financial difficulties.

Those credits would cover only a small portion of Jordan's financing needs, but the Paris Club — whose members hold much of Jordan's debt — require an IMF agreement before considering debt restructuring.

Jordan has imposed cutbacks on spending, has restricted imports and taken steps to encourage export industries.

Rifai said Jordan's debt "was equal to unpaid Arab donations... which primarily was the main and only reason for Jordan's current financial crisis."

Arab oil countries in 1978 pledged to give Jordan more than \$1 billion yearly for a decade for its role on the front line with Israel, but aid never fully reached that figure and declined sharply over the past five years.

Rifai said Jordan faces a financial and not an economic problem and the Jordanian economy is good and growing at a reasonable rate.

"The financial problem we are facing stems from Jordan's inability to meet its commitments in terms of services on external loans and loan instalments on schedule," the prime minister pointed out.

He said that when Jordan borrowed these loans over the past ten years it was hoping that the Arab countries will honour their financial commitments to the Kingdom in accordance with the Baghdad Arab Summit resolutions.

"Unfortunately the Arab countries failed to honour their commitments to the Kingdom and Jordan was forced to settle its dues from its foreign currency reserves which brought about a situation whereby the country felt it was impossible for it to continue paying the full loans and interest on them on schedule," the prime minister noted.

On Thursday, Rifai said Jordan had postponed negotiations with Britain on the purchase of eight Tornado fighter-bombers and related equipment worth \$400 m.

Crown Prince urges boosting Arab services, commodities

By Elia Nasrallah and Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday called on the five Arab financial institutions currently meeting in Amman to focus their development funding on ways for boosting Arab services and commodities in an effort to combat the Arab World's dependence on industrialised countries.

Addressing the annual meeting of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development, the Crown Prince said the Arab World's dependence on industrialised countries was due in part to the consumerist trend that dominated the Arab World during the boom years.

That dependence, he said, was also due to the economic domination policies of the industrialised countries which rendered Third World markets dumping grounds for their products.

"Part of the dependence is due to policies adopted by industrialised countries which clearly aimed at perpetuating the dependence of developing countries on the exports of industrialised countries," the Crown Prince said.

As an example, he cited that lending nations were linking their loans to developing countries to the purchase of services and commodities produced in industrialised nations.

The Crown Prince said dependence on industrialised countries was justified in the past when the productive bases of Arab countries were still in their formative years.

As for the time being, he said, "it is worthy to note that relations between Arab countries on the one hand, and industrialised countries on the other, still suffer from the prevailing level of relations among neighbouring Third World countries which share similar standards of living and production," the Crown Prince said.

"Those relations have not undergone considerable change despite the large growth in production and income levels during the past two decades, a matter which indicates that benefits of this growth as well as the accompanying increase in demand for commodities and services, have



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday addresses the annual meeting of Arab financial institutions in Amman (Petra photo)

gone to products and services of industrialised countries, while a minimum of those has gone to Arab commodities and services," he asserted.

The Crown Prince noted that political independence in developing countries was not accompanied by a development of economic ties between Arab countries, ties which he described as "limited and narrow."

He said trade exchange among Arab countries in the past few years had not exceeded 7 per cent of total exports and 11 per cent of the total imports from these countries.

Even among regional groupings, trade exchange remained at a low level, he said citing as an example that between 1980 and 1985 trade exchange among countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council did not exceed 4 per cent of average exports of those countries, and 7 per cent of their average level of imports.

The Crown Prince stressed however that the Arab nation had now transcended the barriers of frustration and recession and was moving towards a new stage marked by balanced self-confidence and determination to deal with the pressures, constraints and the challenges.

He noted that the gravest limitation to the Arab World's dynamism in the coming years were those related to what the Arab World had inherited, following a period of Western domination of its political and economic activities.

The Arabs have regained their psychological balance and are now capable of reassessing the present situation objectively and with an understanding of the outside pressures being exerted on the Arab Nation, the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan paid tribute to

King Hussein returns from Ismailiya mini-summit with Mubarak and Arafat Al Hussein: No Arab summit without Egypt

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein paid a visit to Egypt Saturday for a mini-summit meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, with whom he discussed the Middle East issues in general and the Palestine problem in particular.

At the conclusion of the talks held at Ismailiya, the King reaffirmed Jordan's and Egypt's full support for the PLO in its endeavours to achieve peace, in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and through an international peace conference.

King Hussein also announced that agreement was reached by heads of state of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen — the four partners in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) — to boycott any future Arab summit unless Egypt regains its Arab League seat.

Arafat had called for an extraordinary Arab summit conference as soon as possible to forge a unified Arab strategy for peace negotiations with Israel and to end the 10-year-old suspension of Egypt's membership in the Arab League.

"We support the PLO's endeavours with all our potential and available resources and we will work together to achieve the aspired goals of the Palestinian people," the King said.

He said Egypt, Jordan and the PLO have a unified position and will maintain their highest level contacts to help the Palestinian people regain their usurped land and rights.

The King said the whole world is now moving towards resolving all issues that threaten world



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday is being received by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat upon His Majesty's arrival at Al Fayed air force base (Petra photo)

Odeh and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi.

Noting "positive developments" in the U.S. and European positions on the Middle East, Mubarak said: "The main purpose of my talks (with Bush) is to arrive at an international peace conference."

He expressed hope that Israel, which opposes the conference idea, will change its mind.

Egyptian officials said the three-way summit came amid "encouraging developments," including last Wednesday's meeting in Tunis between U.S. and PLO representatives, which got down to substantive issues for the first time since the dialogue began last December.

The officials, who demanded anonymity, also cited remarks by Bush in a newspaper interview in which he praised the dialogue with the PLO and said he would try to convince Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir next month that "something good might come" from this.

Mubarak then drove his two guests to Deversoir, 10 kilometres north of Fayid, where they boarded a small yacht and held talks as they cruised for an hour northward toward Ismailiya.

The three leaders disembarked at the Suez Canal Authority Headquarters, where they held a second session and a working lunch.

King Fahd starts visit to Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq gave a warm welcome Saturday to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, one of its biggest backers in the Gulf war, who is paying the first visit to Baghdad by a Saudi monarch in 30 years.

An Arab diplomat said the welcome, provided by thousands of Iraqis waving posters and flags along the route of the king's motorcade, was intended to show appreciation for generous Saudi financial aid and political backing during the eight-year war with Iran.

No agenda has been announced for the visit, but the Saudi monarch and President Saddam Hussein are expected to discuss the deadlock in Iraq-Iran peace talks which began after the Aug. 20 ceasefire.

Other likely agenda items are the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which Iraq formed last month with Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen, and Saudi attempts to mediate better relations between Iraq and neighbouring Syria.

Hussein, who met the king at the airport, said earlier this month that Saudi Arabia had been the most generous of Iraq's Arab war-time benefactors, followed by Kuwait.

He gave no figures but economic analysts said Iraq owed nearly \$30 billion to Gulf Arab countries.

All Iraqi newspapers carried big pictures of the king and Hussein on their front pages and expressed hopes for greater bilateral cooperation in editorials.

The ruling Baath Party daily Al Thawra said the visit would allow Iraqis to express "deep gratitude to the distinguished pan-Arab role" played by King Fahd in support of Iraq during the war.

It said the visit was an indication of Saudi Arabia's intention to expand and develop relations while Iraq's leadership was trying to establish a lasting peace with Iran.

2 Palestinian protesters killed by Israelis in bloody clashes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Four Palestinians died Saturday and at least 35 were wounded in one of the bloodiest recent outbreaks of anti-Israeli protests in the occupied territories, Arab news reports said.

The army confirmed the fatalities and nine wounded and said two Palestinians were killed in clashes with soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Two men whose bodies were found in two separate parts of Gaza were apparently slain for criminal motives, the army claimed.

Israel Radio and Arab reports said the men found slain were killed on suspicion of collaborating with Israel. About 60 suspected Arab collaborators have been killed during the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

In a reverse development, some 60 Israeli peace activists including three rabbis, spent an unusual Jewish sabbath in the West Bank town of Beit Sahour, where they discussed peace with dozens of Palestinians over plates of chicken, potatoes and salad, witnesses said.

The activists of the "Peace Now" Movement issued a statement saying they sought to prove "dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians is possible when the government and the army do not interfere."

The body of one alleged collaborator and reputed drug pusher, Jamal Abdul Hamid Al Nadi, was found behind a school in Gaza City's Rimal Quarter, with multiple stab wounds and signs of beatings, Arab reports said.

Graffiti reportedly scribbled on a wall near Nadi's home and signed by the Islamic fundamentalist "Hamas" Movement, said the group had killed him for drug dealing and cooperating with the Israelis.

The other body was discovered in Rafah in southern Gaza and identified as Subhi Hamdan Al Soufi, 21. Arab reports said Soufi was killed as a collaborator.

The army spokesman's office denied either were collaborators and said in a statement distributed to reporters that an investigation into their deaths showed "the men were killed as a result of an internal feud of a criminal nature."

Two other fatalities occurred in Rafah and Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip where soldiers opened fire on protesters, fatally wounding Ashraf Abu Jazar, 17, in the abdomen and Adil Erbea, 22 in the heart, Arab reports said.

The deaths raised to 411 the number of Palestinians killed in the uprising against Israeli rule that began on Dec. 8, 1987.

It was the biggest daily casualty toll in the rebellion in about three months and was part of an escalating spiral of violence on the eve of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's planned trip to Washington next week where Middle East peace plans will be discussed.

Eighteen other Palestinians suffered gunshot wounds during the Gaza clashes Saturday, among them an 11-year-old girl and two 12-year-old boys in moderate condition, the reports said.

Seventeen were wounded or injured by rubber bullets in the West Bank, the reports said.

The army confirmed 11 were wounded in Gaza, and said nine were wounded in two other clashes in the West Bank towns of Nablus and Tarkumiya near Hebron.

Bush: U.S. to work for Mideast peace

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush, marking the 10th anniversary of the Camp David peace pact between Israel and Egypt, said Saturday the United States would keep working for a peace agreement for the entire Middle East.

"The best way to do honour to those who gave us the treaty of peace between Israel and Egypt is to bring peace to the entire Middle East," Bush said in a statement.

"There is a growing understanding that a settlement can be reached that satisfies Israel's security needs and address the legitimate political rights of the Palestinians," he said.

His statement was issued from

the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland where the treaty was negotiated by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Jimmy Carter. The treaty was signed at the White House on March 26, 1979.

Bush praised Sadat and Begin for their courage and vision in reaching the agreement but did not mention Carter by name, referring to the "American team" that helped bring about the agreement.

Sadat was assassinated in Cairo in 1981. Begin retired from political life and Carter was defeated for reelection in 1980 by Ronald Reagan with Bush as his running

mate.

"The Middle East today remains a dangerous and volatile area," Bush said. "Deep-seated hostilities and legitimate security concerns frustrate efforts to expand the peace, and yet there are hopeful signs."

Bush said United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which recognise Israel's right to exist, could be used as the basis for a wider Middle East settlement, as they were for the Camp David accord.

"This administration is committed to this goal. We must be patient, but we must never stop trying. The search for peace will continue," Bush said.

Sudan rebels pledge relief support

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Sudanese rebels have "strongly and emphatically" endorsed a massive United Nations relief effort to combat starvation in the southern Sudan, a U.N. official said Saturday.

Richard S. Reid, regional director of the United Nations Children's Fund for the Middle East and North Africa, said rebel leaders "are now impatient" for the relief effort to begin.

The UNICEF official flew to the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa from Amman, Friday and spent the day meeting with officials of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). It was Reid's third meeting in seven days with rebel leaders and he told the Associated Press later that "we have the political green lights flashing unmistakably for all to see."

"Let us get the show on the road," Reid added. "It is time for the United Nations and the relief donor governments and agencies to start the relief action, to couple words with deeds."

Reid's talks with the rebels marked a major breakthrough in

protracted negotiations between the United Nations, the Sudanese government and the insurgents.

The United Nations had earlier urged the rebels to accept a six-month ceasefire offered by the government, but that was rejected as unacceptable.

As an alternative to a ceasefire, the United Nations proposed that both sides in the 6-year-old civil war agree to safeguard "emergency corridors" for at least a month.

Under the corridor plan, the United Nations and donor governments and agencies plan to transport about 100,000 metric tons of food, medicine and other relief supplies to southern Sudan before heavy summer rains begin in May.

The supplies are to be transported through eight corridors, or routes, using barges, trucks, railroads and airplanes. The relief

will move from Sudan's northern capital, Khartoum, and from the neighbouring countries of Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya.

Reid said hundreds of thousands of people face famine and starvation in the southern Sudan and relief must be delivered before the start of the rainy season "if we are to avoid the catastrophe of last year in which an estimated 250,000 people died."

"We in the United Nations and in the donor community have to get cracking in accelerating the action that would start to show results before not later than April 1," he said.

The rainy season makes surface transport virtually impossible and air transport difficult between May and November, when food and other supplies can next be replenished.

Reid said the Sudanese government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and the rebels' Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency would assist in the distribution of the aid.

Reid said the relief operation will be "virtually the same size" as the drought relief operation in Ethiopia in 1987-88, but the Sudan effort will be carried out "in an extremely compressed time frame," making it "the biggest emergency relief operation of its kind in the world."

He said UNICEF last week began transferring some of its most experienced relief personnel to Khartoum and Kenya's capital of Nairobi to bolster the operation. "Seasoned UNICEF staff members have so far been brought to the Sudan operation from China, Afghanistan and Lebanon and more will be coming from other areas of the map," he said.

In Washington, a U.S. official, calling famine-relief efforts in Sudan a "race against time," Friday urged nations around the world to do more to support an aid operation organized during a break in Sudan's civil war.

"Everybody wants peace, but peace will be a hollow victory if the people for whom peace is the



Sudan's hungry children in line for food as the famine clock ticks faster.

goal are not alive because we can't deliver the food in time to save them," said Julia Taft, director of the State Department's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

tor of the State Department's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

50,000 homeless in S. Yemen floods

NICOSIA (R) — Floods killed five people, destroyed 400 homes and made 50,000 people homeless in central South Yemen and its eastern coastal plain, Aden Radio said. It said a survey showed a further 500 homes had been partly damaged as torrential rain since Sunday flooded Hadramaut, Al Mahrah and Abyan governorates. A man swept away Thursday night brought to five the number of people killed as torrents raged across South Yemen's normally arid eastern coastal plain, the radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported Friday. South Yemen, which has a population of about 2.5 million and ranks as one of the world's poorest nations, has appealed for international help for victims of the disaster.

Abu Dhabi reports 47 AIDS victims

ABU DHABI (R) — The Gulf Emirate of Abu Dhabi reported 47 expatriates diagnosed as having the AIDS virus in 1988, a health ministry official said Saturday. Of those reported because of positive tests for AIDS, 18 were Arabs, 15 Pakistanis and nine Indians, he added.

Somalia rebels claim they hold north

LONDON (AP) — Rebels fighting the Somali government claimed Friday they hold almost a third of the strategically important nation on the Horn of Africa and are closing on two major northern cities. "For some time we have been controlling 85 per cent of the northern region, which is about one-third of Somalia, and in the past four weeks, we have been closing on the main cities in the north," Abad Ali Rahman Ali, a member of the rebel Somali National Movement told the AP in London, where he is based. Rebels were fighting government troops on the outskirts of Hargeisa and Burao in northwest Somalia and expect to take both cities "very soon," he said.

Libya denies terrorism charge

ROME (R) — Libya's ambassador to Italy Friday reiterated Tripoli's denial of involvement in terrorism after Washington warned of a possible plot to hijack an American-owned airliner in Europe. Ambassador Abdul Rahman Shalgam called a news conference after airports in Europe increased security in response to the warning, which did not specify a group, country or time. "Libya, I repeat, does not employ terrorism. If we are opposed to anyone we say so and take responsibility," he said. On April 15, 1986, U.S. bombers raided Tripoli in retaliation for alleged Libyan support of terrorism. "If there are other accidents this year, even road accidents, I would not exclude some people again hailing Libya," Shalgam said. He said Washington periodically accused Libya of supporting terrorism because Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi "doesn't bow down and do what the United States would like."

Green Party member linked to Qadhafi

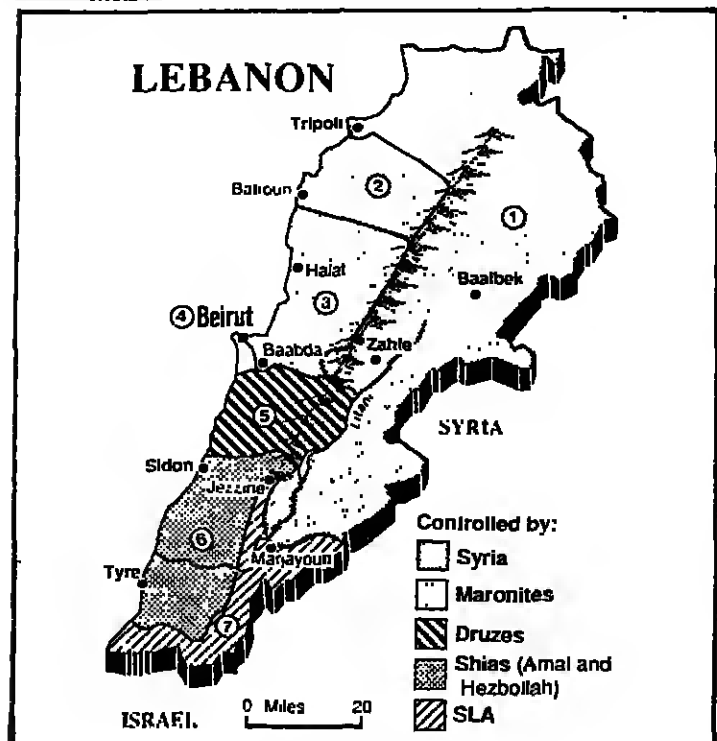
BONN (R) — A parliamentary deputy for West Germany's radical Greens Party is active in a new Liechtenstein-based foundation with links to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, a Munich newspaper said Friday. The Sueddeutsche Zeitung said Albert Mechttersheimer, a Greens spokesman on disarmament policy, was believed to have acted as a lobbyist for Qadhafi. The newspaper said Mechttersheimer took part in the initial meeting of the M.A.G. Foundation for Peace and Solidarity in Zurich, Switzerland, in December. The foundation, based in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, was financially supported by Qadhafi with \$10 million from a Swiss Bank account, it said in a report released ahead of Saturday's publication. The Greens deputy said the foundation was set up to improve Libya's links with the "international community of nations," according to the Sueddeutsche Zeitung. "A kind of perestroika is also occurring in Libya," Mechttersheimer was quoted as saying. "One must prevent Qadhafi from being pushed into a corner where the Americans would like to keep him."

U.S. spy may get Israeli passport

TEL AVIV (AP) — Interior Minister Arye Deri was quoted Friday as saying he may consider approving Israeli citizenship for Jonathan Pollard, a former U.S. navy analyst convicted of selling military secrets to Israel. Pollard's parents, Morris and Mildred Pollard, met with Deri Thursday and were told that public opinion in the United States toward their son was changing. Israeli newspapers reported. "If the circumstances change, we will consider giving Israeli citizenship to Pollard," Deri told the independent Maariv Daily. He declined to elaborate, the paper said. The ministry spokeswoman could not be reached for comment. The Interior Ministry is responsible for immigration. Jonathan Pollard, a civilian analyst, was arrested in November 1985 and is serving a life sentence for selling top-secret military documents to Israel. His wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, has been jailed for five years for conspiracy. "We as Jews are obligated to do everything in our power and to work for the release of the Pollard couple," Deri told the Yediot Ahronot newspaper.

Iraq bans men working in health clubs

BAGHDAD (AP) — The government has banned men from working in women's health clubs and ordered owners to fire their male staff immediately, the ruling Baath Party newspaper said Saturday. The paper, Al Thawra, said that the Interior Ministry ordered the ban "in order to protect morality and women's modesty." Iraq last year banned men from working in women's hairdressing salons for similar reasons. "The practice of slandering of women by men contradicts our educational course in building the new society, and our traditional values," the paper quoted a ministry spokesman as saying.



Frightened Lebanese forget all in shelling

BEIRUT (R) — "Something is missing," cried Samira Hajj fleeing from a salvo of shells raining on the streets around her Beirut home.

"I have my children, jewellery and make-up... oh my God, I left my husband behind."

Minutes later, Samira's husband, Mounir, joined his family at a bomb shelter in East Beirut wearing only his underwear and his wife's coloured slippers.

After almost 14 years of civil strife in which 130,000 people have died, many Lebanese have lost their ability to cope with the pressures of war.

Lebanese say the most frightening moments are those when fighting erupts and artillery shells pour down on residential areas. Panic-stricken people run for shelters or other hideaways abandoning anything they are doing. "Some mothers have even forgotten their babies," said Leila Nakouzi, a psychology professor.

"The worst timing is when you are having a shower. What do you do then? If you run out naked you become the talk of the town and if you remain motionless you might die of fear," said Mounir, 40, a bank employee and father-of-three.

Fear is reflected in many different ways.

"I just like telling jokes when shells fall nearby and can't stop talking," said William Mdaouar, a 30-year-old dentist.

Quarrels often erupt and the simplest issues provoke angry responses.

The abrupt shutting of a door and a loud bang can easily frighten people, while thunder, mistaken for shelling, sends them rushing to shelters or seeking safety under the nearest table or bed," said May Haber, a university English teacher.

Nakouzi said bomb shelters were the only places where people were able to share their fear

with others and gain the strength to face danger.

The shelling and violence does not appear to have dented the Lebanese reputation for business acumen and apartments for sale, complete with bomb shelters are readily available.

An advertisement in the Al Amal daily newspaper. Offered a shelter "comprising a bedroom, a kitchen and a bathroom. It is solidly built to withstand high-calibre artillery shells."

Architects now pay special attention to the design and construction of shelters.

TASS to open office in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — The Soviet news agency TASS plans to open a second Gulf office in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a Soviet embassy spokesman said Saturday. He said that the bureau would open as soon as veteran TASS correspondent Victor Lebedev, who is already in the UAE, received press accreditation. TASS has an office in Kuwait. He said the move was intended to boost Gulf coverage. Moscow has diplomatic relations with Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the UAE.

Rebel threat seems remote in major Afghan cities

By Hugh Pain
Reuter

KABUL — Nobody is manning the barricades just yet in Kabul, and inside the city it does not feel as if it is about to fall to the Mujahideen rebels. Yet U.S. Charge d'Affaires Jon Glusman, speaking early last month after joining a Western diplomatic exodus from the Afghan capital, said: "The Afghan government is like a building without girders. He predicted it would collapse by July."

And the Mujahideen alliance in Peshawar was even more optimistic, telling the world in mid-March that the government it formed in February would be ruling in the Afghan capital in six weeks — around the beginning of May.

They may be right, but neither the government of President Najibullah nor the city's two million people seem to believe it.

Women shovel the hard packed snow of winter off the pavements as mads turn into rivers of brown mud.

It is still cold, with a biting damp in the air and only the first hints of spring after the worst winter for 15 years.

But Kabul Mayor Mohammad Hakim told a news conference last week: "Despite the severe winter, there was not a single report of anybody dying of starvation or cold."

Vendors ply the streets with carts of carrots and pomegran-

ates, onions and cauliflower and oranges — for those who can afford them.

Only the bread queues — or rather bread huddles, as Afghans have never learnt the Western art of queueing — suggest a food shortage. Only the sparse traffic, consisting mainly of old buses belching low-octane fumes, tells that fuel is in short supply.

A 220-gram (8 oz) piece of bread costs six Afghanis (three cents) at the government controlled price — worth waiting for in one of the world's poorest countries when the free market rate is 20 Afghanis (10 cents).

Petrol costs 300 Afghanis (\$1.50) a litre, but even that is better than last week's 400 Afghanis (\$2), and shows that supplies are getting through both by road and in the huge Soviet transports that daily fly in from Tashkent. The flights carry flour according to officials and rockets according to local gossip.

The big Ilyushin-76s spew out flames to distract anti-aircraft missiles, and Soviet-supplied "Scud" rockets take off with a roar to hit the rebels around Jalalabad in the east.

A few rebel rockets fall in return on the city on most days, killing and maiming a steady trickle of civilians, and the sound of artillery echoes across the ring of hills around Kabul.

But there is no panic or expectation that the capital is about to become a battlefield.

After a decade of war the politics of ordinary people — shopkeepers, taxi-drivers, bank clerks and the like — are simple and nearly universal.

As for Mazar-E-Sharif, "Afghan rebels will never seize this major northern city because local people do not want them, and the attempt to occupy Jalalabad in the east will fail," a senior provincial official has said.

"The majority of people here are educated and they know who is their enemy and who works for them," Abdur-Rahman Ansari, deputy governor of Balkh province, said in a notably upbeat briefing for reporters recently.

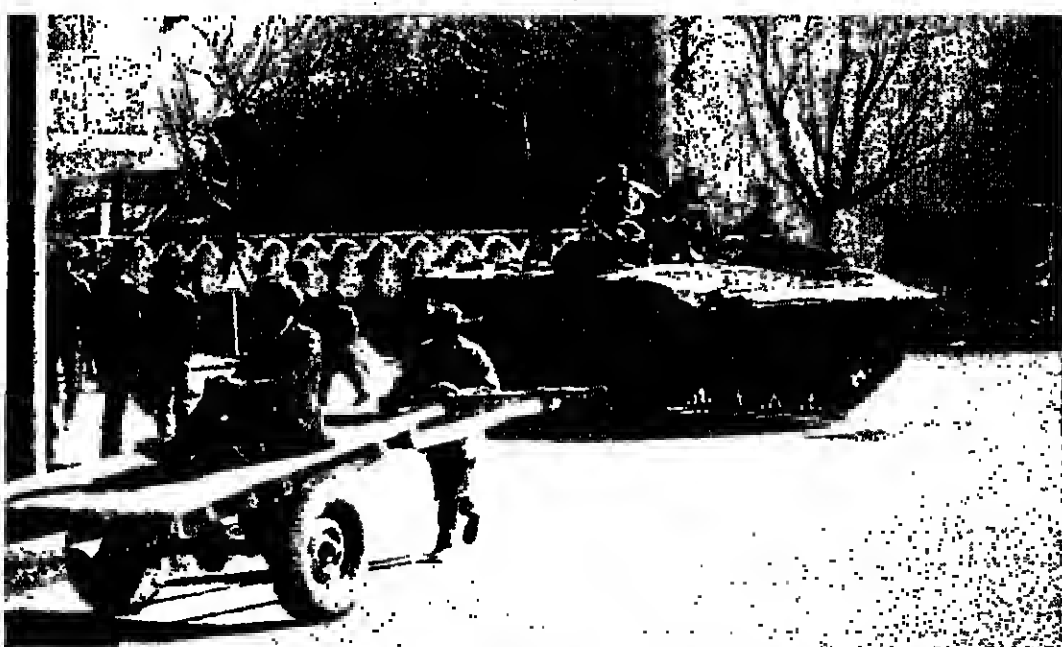
His remarks reflected a growing confidence among supporters of Najibullah's Moscow-backed government a month after Soviet troops completed their withdrawal.

There was a relaxed mood in Mazar-E-Sharif, the major urban centre of the north and only 60 kilometres from the Soviet border.

Life appeared normal, the 200,000 population swollen by pilgrims attending the Shrine of Hazrat Ali, cousin of the Prophet Mohammed.

Water was running, electricity worked and food and fuel were in far more plentiful supply than in Kabul, thanks mainly to easy access to Soviet sources to the north.

But huge depots of armoured vehicles and army equipment stood ready outside the town and at least two squadrons of MiG-21 fighters



Troops relax on their tank as life goes on in Kabul despite a state of emergency declared by the government on Feb. 19 after the rebel offensive (Sygma photo)

were dispersed around the airport.

Referring to the fierce battle this month for the eastern city of Jalalabad, Ansari said the rebels had fired rockets and shells but their attempt at capturing the city had been repulsed.

"I can assure you that Jalalabad might be razed to the ground, but they could never be able to occupy it," he said.

Ansari said that in Mazar-E-Sharif 7,000 armed party members were ready to aid regular forces and volunteer civilian self-defence groups had also

sprung up.

There was no chance of a serious Mujahideen attack on the city, he said, adding he strongly denied reports that it would become the seat of government if Kabul was attacked heavily.

Three rockets fell on the city a week ago, but Ansari said the rebels — of the Hezbi-Islami (Hekmatyar) and Hezbi-I-Islami (Khalis) groups — were 40 kilometres away behind a range of mountains south of the city.

Ansari, 48, a member of the ruling People's Democratic

Party (PDPA), acknowledged that the party was not popular in all regions but insisted a solution to the Afghan conflict was impossible if it did not play a role.

"In the last 10 years the PDPA has shown it is a force, and, now the Soviet troops have gone, it is a force alone," he said.

"There were so many comments that when the Soviet troops left they (the Mujahideen) will be able to occupy Jalalabad and then Kabul, but they could not do it," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

19:12 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifiah, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 837985
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622646
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625641
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625843
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 683526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 622605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
The country will be affected by a depression now centred south of Greece. Therefore, a drop in tempera-

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

ture will occur and clouds will appear at different altitudes; rainfall is expected in the evening. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/max. temp.
Amman 6/17
Aqaba 14/25
Deserts 5/19
Jordan Valley 12/24

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 19, Aqaba 28. Humidity readings:
Amman and Aqaba: 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Musa Bashir 615487
Dr. Joseph Ihsan 770560
Dr. Hisham Alsa Abouab 893122
Dr. Daoud Samhour 689335
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 626762
Al Salam pharmacy 636130
Yacoub pharmacy 640495
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IREBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr (—)
Al Shamsi pharmacy (985238)
ZARQA:
Dr. Zaid Salim (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 98417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 62290993
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 65630091
Public Security Department 656000 / 685111
Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 802667
Complaints 802667
Amman Municipality 783111
Telephone Information 783111
(directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 773112
Jordan Television 773112

Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642662
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 842645
Al-Musaher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marjeh 89161/115
Queen Alia Hospital 602400/0
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Jing Sun Hospital (09)986732
IREBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in filer per kg.
Almonds 1100 / 800
Apple 300 / 400
Banana 350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 250
Broad beans 110 / 70
Cabbage 110 / 70
Carrots 220 / 160
Cauliflower 110 / 70
Cucumbers 320 / 250
Dates 550 / 450
Eggplant 220 / 170
Garlic 280 / 220
Grapefruit 400 / 300
Lemon 300 / 270
Marrow (large) 150 / 120
Marrow (small) 220 / 200
Orange (Shamouti) 300 / 320
Orange (local) 300 / 240
Onion (dry) 250 / 200
Onion (green) 120 / 80
Pepper (hot) 380 / 300
Pepper (sweet) 220 / 180
Potato 310 / 250
Spinach 80 / 50

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Aqaba, Jeddah (RJ)
10:15 Amman (RJ)
16:20 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
16:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:45 Paris (RJ)
17:50 London (RJ)
17:50 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:55 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
17:55 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:45 Rome (RJ)
18:45 Doha, Sharjah, Muscat (GF)
18:45 Dubai (EK)
19:15 Athens (OA)
08:20 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 Cairo (MS)
10:20 Kuwait (KU)
10:40 Rome (AZ)
12:45 Muscat, Sharjah, Doha (GF)
15:15 Doha (EK)
18:25 Frankfurt (LH)
19:05 Beirut (ME)
21:45 Athens (OA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

18:45 Rome (RJ)
11:30 Athens, Vienna (RJ)
11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
19:40 Kuwait (KU)
20:40 Larnaca (RJ)
20:15 Baghdad (RJ)
20:15 Aqaba (RJ)
20:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:30 Amman (RJ)
21:30 Cairo (RJ)
21:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
22:00 Vienna, New York, Miami (RJ)
18:20 Cairo (MS)
11:25 Kuwait (KU)
18:45 Doha, Sharjah, Muscat (GF)
18:45 Dubai (EK)
19:15 Athens (OA)
22:30 Damascus (LA)

Queen Noor visits Wadi Araba

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday toured the major populated areas in Wadi Araba, where she listened to briefings on the facilities available and the citizens' requests for services aimed at developing these areas.

Wadi Araba district, which covers an area of 160 kilometres in diameter and has a population of approximately 4000, has 2 main villages within its borders, Al Rahmeb and Al Reeshah.

At Al Rahmeb village, Queen Noor visited the school run by the Jordanian Armed Forces, where she met with students of the elementary and preparatory levels and inspected the services at the school.

The Queen also met with the village notables and discussed with them ways of providing the village with services and income-generating projects which would ensure their healthy settlement in the area.

Queen Noor also visited Al Reeshah village where she inspected the local medical centre, a girl's school and the social development centre, currently under construction.

In both villages the Queen met with the ladies of the area and



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday talks to schoolchildren at a boy's school during her visit to Wadi Araba in the south of the Kingdom.

discussed with them their immediate needs and inspected the local handicrafts exhibits and ways of developing these trades in cooperation with Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

At Al Reeshah, the Queen was briefed by Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority, on the authority's agricultural and water projects in the area as well as plans to help the largely nomadic citizens settle in the area.

At the end of her visit, the Queen conveyed His Majesty King Hussein's regards to the citizens in the villages and discussed with them ways of upgrading the services available in the villages and women's contribution to the social life there as well as ways of providing future generations with a proper educational and health facilities.

Queen Noor was accompanied by Minister of Social Development Dr. Fawaz Touqan.

Jordan, Morocco open trade talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Cooperation between the Maghreb Union which groups five North African Arab states, including Morocco, and the Arab Cooperation Council which includes Jordan was discussed at a meeting here Saturday by the joint Jordanian-Moroccan Economic Committee.

The committee which opened meetings at the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Friday, Saturday discussed among other things increasing the volume of trade between Jordan and Morocco, opening trade centres in Amman and Rabat, holding industrial fairs in either capital to promote the sale of national products as well as cooperation in transport and industry.

The two sides have discussed the increase of the volume of trade to \$45 million annually, facilitating the issuance of import licences for merchants and cooperation between private sector companies in both countries. The Jordanian side sought to promote the sale of Jordanian phosphate in the markets of the Maghreb Union countries, cooperation in maritime shipping, exchanging

expertise in industrial affairs and the transfer of modern technology.

Minister of Industry Hamdi Tabbaa who leads the Jordanian side to the meeting emphasised the need to introduce measures that can help facilitate the flow of national products between the two countries.

The Moroccan Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Azmani said that the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council and the Maghreb Union will pave the ground for greater Arab measures of cooperation in economic and trade and industrial fields.

Later, Tabbaa and the Moroccan minister visited the Sahab Industrial City and inspected different industrial businesses and were briefed by Dr. Fayez Suheimat, the director general of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation on the current industrial situation.

The Moroccan minister was briefed on the incentives given to foreign investors and the facilities provided by the Jordanian law to promote investments.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday addresses the 6th annual meeting of the Arab Thought Forum at the Royal Cultural Centre (Petra photo).

Prince Hassan addresses Arab Thought Forum: Nation on right track

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday said that the Arab World accomplished great achievements in the past year at the regional and international levels, as well as on the domestic front.

The Iraqi military victory in the Gulf conflict, the Moroccan-Algerian reconciliation, the Algerian Arab summit to support the intifada and Jordan's severing of links with the occupied West Bank to boost the identity of the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative were among the many achievements realised in the past year by the Arab World, Prince Hassan said in a speech to the Arab Thought Forum (ATF's) general assembly.

He said that the proclamation of the Palestinian state and the commencement of the U.S.-PLO dialogue as well as the recent proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council and the Maghreb Union were also among the main achievements of the Arab World.

In addition, the ATF which is now entering its ninth year, has realised accomplishments of which one can feel proud and

delighted, despite the difficulties encountered in the first few years, Prince Hassan noted.

The first few years in the life of the ATF, he added, were marked by divisions within the Arab World which witnessed recession and retreat on all fronts.

The Arab Thought Forum, he said, was established in 1981 to be a forum for exercising free dialogue in a democratic spirit, and to discuss issues of concern to the present and the future of the Arab World, he noted. Since 1981, Prince Hassan added, the ATF has been serving as a beacon for the Arab intellectuals and responsible people who are intent to re-establish Arab self-confidence.

What the ATF has achieved together with the other favourable developments in the Arab World has ushered in a new era of pan-Arab awakening and infused new hopes and enhanced the de-

termination of the Arab Nation to rise again and pursue the march of progress, Prince Hassan said.

In reviewing the ATF's achievements, Prince Hassan said that the forum has organised several seminars and four international dialogues, and participated in 20 conferences in the Arab and foreign countries. In addition, the ATF published six books and publishes a monthly gazette which has a circulation of 5,000, Prince Hassan noted.

He said that the ATF last year organised competitions and presented awards for outstanding works by Arab intellectuals. The ATF has also organised Arab youth activities and maintained cooperation and coordination with similar forums in the Arab World, Prince Hassan added.

"We are looking with hope to the ninth year and the programmes which the ATF will carry out to serve the Arab Nation that is now witnessing a new awakening at all fronts," Prince Hassan concluded.

The delegates later endorsed the final accounts of the past year and a programme of activities for 1989.

Indian trade team arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and India Monday open talks designed to further boost economic and trade cooperation and look into prospects of launching joint ventures.

The Indian side to the talks is headed by the under secretary of the Indian ministry of trade who arrived here Saturday at the head of his team. The Jordanian side will be led by Ministry of Industry's Secretary General Mobam-

mad Saqqaf who was at the airport to welcome the Indian delegation.

In the four-day meeting the two sides will review ways of increasing the volume of exchanged trade and will look into the prospect of increasing Jordanian exports of phosphate, potash and cement to Indian markets. According to official statistics India is the largest importer of Jordanian phosphate and potash

and its imports of Jordanian phosphates and other fertiliser-related products were estimated at \$110 million so far.

In 1987 Jordan's exports to India amounted to JD 22 million while Indian exports to Jordan were worth only JD 1.4 million.

To adjust the balance a private sector Indian company was given a \$104 million contract to build part of a new 540-kilometre Aqaba-Inraq road and the new interchange at the Ministry of Interior circle and the Sports City were built by another Indian firm at the cost of JD 5 million.

During Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Jordan last summer, questions of economic relations and prospects of boosting bilateral trade were discussed.

China tiles factory opens Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — A china tile factory will be inaugurated here Wednesday by Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa.

The factory, the first of its kind in the Middle East region, was set up by the Jordan Ceramics Industries, according to Mamdouh Abu Hassan, the company's chairman of the board.

Abu Hassan said that the factory was set up in line with the government's financial, economic and monetary policies which are designed to increase Jordanian exports and earn hard currency.

The private sector, Abu Hassan said, has an important role to play in stimulating the national

industry and together with the public sector it can help promote the national industry and by the turn of the century placing Jordan among the industrialised nations of the world.

According to Abu Hassan the factory's annual manufacturing capacity is expected to reach a million square metres of tiles made to internationally accepted specifications and standards and of excellent quality sufficient to meet the local needs and leaving surplus for export.

Abu Hassan expressed the hope that the Jordanian tiles will find their way to Arab as well as foreign markets.

Promoting study in Britain

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite the recent devaluation of the Jordanian dinar and its relative high value against the English pound, the organiser of the British higher education mission, Keith Davies, asserts that an education in Britain is a "good investment."

Davies, who is the promotions officer of the higher education division of the British Council in London, said during the mission's open counselling session for Jordanian students at the British Council here on Thursday that the session aimed at acquainting Jordanian students with universities in Britain and at discussing financial difficulties accompanying study abroad.

"We will try to convince (students) that despite the Jordanian dinar, education in England is of high quality and a good investment," Davies said.

Although there were only six academics on the mission representing four universities, a

polytechnic and an institute of higher education, Davies considers the mission a representation of all the educational institutions in Britain.

A member of the mission and a frequent visitor to Amman from Glasgow University, Professor David Sharp noted that all the students he had met with, complained of financial problems as the main obstacle to their study abroad.

Sharp, a professor of chemistry and the coordinator of the overseas programme at the Glasgow University pointed out that the British government set the fees for undergraduate study, but "Glasgow University, unlike other universities, will offer students scholarships for the final year of undergraduate work in certain subjects."

Promoting British universities in Jordan was not the mission's only objective. During their two day stay, they visited the four universities in Jordan, the Ministry of Higher Education, a number of community colleges and

schools and met with the presidents of the universities, senior members of the faculty and other responsible officials.

Discussions on educational cooperation between Britain and Jordan concentrated primarily on staff exchanges, staff visits, joint research and joint supervised PhD programmes, according to Davies.

Joint supervised PhD programmes, which have been implemented in the recent past, are not "full" British PhD degrees. "Rather a student spends part of his time in Britain and part in Jordan, reducing costs and allowing him or her to do research in Jordan," Davies said.

The mission aims at promoting post-graduate work, particularly PhDs, since "advanced degrees are not available in all subjects in Jordanian universities," said Davies.

He added that some Jordanian universities are "upgrading their staff" in order to start PhD programmes in some courses.

In a first of its kind event

Rose city to echo Briggs vibrations

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — This summer, the ancient Nabatean city of Petra will witness the first major cultural attraction of its kind as British pianist John Briggs holds a "sunset concert" at the city's 2000-year-old amphitheatre.

The concert comes as part of official and private efforts to promote Jordan as a destination for various activities from the "sun and fun" of the beach to lavish banquets in the Kingdom's historic castles.

The event, the first of its kind in Petra, is also expected to serve as a rehearsal for bigger events in the ancient city. Although the event is organised by the private sector — the International Travel Agency — tourism officials say the concert will serve as a good indicator of what needs to be done if bigger events are to be held in the ancient city.

Arrangements for the concert will give officials an indication of the amphitheatre's actual seating capacity, the sound quality for musical events, as well as the logistics involved in arranging for events with a larger number of spectators.

"Petra certainly deserves something big, but right now we cannot do it logistically," said the Ministry of Tourism Secretary General Nasri Atalla. Petra's only hotel, the Petra Forum, has 73 rooms and is reportedly fully booked throughout the months of April and May. Last year, Jordan's national carrier, Royal

Jordanian, signed an agreement for a joint venture with Club Med to develop a 150-room hotel by 1995.

The ministry has had to turn down numerous requests from renowned European orchestras to hold concerts in Petra because of the lack of facilities. Besides the lack of hotel accommodations for example, rules forbidding the entry of cars into the city render horses the only means of transportation through the city's narrow silk. At present, there are approximately 350 horses, and in Atalla's own admission, if people start pouring into the pink rock city for a big event, "we're in a lot of trouble."

For the time being however, existing facilities will have to do. The 200 or so fans and friends accompanying Briggs on a week-long tour of the country will be accommodated at Aqaba and will have to drive up to Petra for the May 23rd event.

International Travelers is arranging for same-evening transportation from Amman for those interested in attending the concert which is expected to start at 5:00 p.m. and end just before sunset at 7:23 that evening. Sufficient time will be allowed for those planning to dine at Petra following the concert.

"This is a new way of promoting Jordan," said Munir Nassar, general manager of International Travelers (IT). "It represents what we are ultimately looking for — promotion for Jordan." Besides Briggs' 200 fans, and a local



John Briggs

audience from Amman, a few hundred additional tourists from France, Switzerland and Italy may visit the country to attend the concert. Nassar said International Travelers has received "positive reactions" from tour operators in those countries regarding the concert.

As far as the Ministry of Tourism is concerned, the event represents valuable promotion for the country without burdening the government's tourism budget whatsoever. Briggs' fans and friends are paying their own expenses for the "sunset concert" tour. According to Atalla, the ministry is simply "facilitating things" for the event, granting the organisers permission to use the premises which usually close at 5:00 p.m.

'Frozen chicken available'

Ministry ensures food supplies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply has floated a tender for the purchase of 40,000 tonnes of rice in order to make this commodity available in big quantities for the citizens of Jordan. Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh announced Saturday.

The minister said also that a large quantity of frozen chicken is now available at the ministry's warehouses and there are plans to provide the local markets with additional quantities of poultry meat during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Tarawneh said that importation of fresh meat will be more organised as of the beginning of

the coming month and the ministry will open the way for the private sector to import additional amounts of frozen meat.

A consignment of 1,250 tonnes of frozen meat bought from New Zealand is due here shortly after the Eid Al Fitr feast at the beginning of May, the minister noted. Referring to the basic com-

modities, Tarawneh said that the Kingdom has sufficient amounts of sugar and rice; and 20,000 tonnes of sugar are due to arrive here by mid-April. Moreover, the minister said, the private sector has been allowed to import fresh and frozen fish from Oman, the Gulf states and a number of foreign countries.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CONDOLENCES: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday visited Al Mufti family conveying condolences on the death of Sa'id Al Mufti. The King ordered that the deceased be buried at the Royal Cemetery. The King was accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Chief of the Royal Court Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The prime minister earlier announced the death of Sa'id Al Mufti. The deceased, who passed away Saturday afternoon, had held the post of prime minister, parliament speaker, parliament member as well as senior government posts (Petra).

GOOD WISHES: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to Bangladesh President Mohammad Ershad on his country's national day. He wished the president continued health and happiness and further progress and prosperity for Bangladesh and its people. The King also sent a cable of good wishes to the King of Malaysia Mahioud Iskandar Al Haj Sultan on the anniversary of his assumption of his constitutional powers.

LOAN: The Council of Ministers Saturday endorsed a \$6 million loan agreement signed with the European Investment Bank. This loan will be used in financing Jordan Electric Authority projects (Petra).

VIOLATIONS: A meeting was held Saturday at the Prime Ministry to discuss violations reported by the Audit Bureau. These violations are related to the Ministry of Municipal, Rural Affairs, and the Environment as well as the Telecommunications Corporation and the municipal councils of Mafraq, Jerash, and Jiza (Petra).

SENTENCED: The military court has sentenced Kamel Ali Hussein Abdullah Mustafa to three years imprisonment and the payment of JD 500 fine for the acquisition of drugs. The military governor endorsed the sentence (Petra).

LOANS: The Cities and Villages Development Bank last month gave 20 loans totalling JD 1.7 million to municipal and village councils in the Kingdom. A bank spokesman said that loans for new income generating projects totalled JD 800,000, accounting for nearly 47.6 per cent of the total volume of loans (Petra).

STATISTICS: The board of trustees of the Arab Institute for Research and Training in Statistics opens a meeting here Sunday with the participation of heads of statistics departments in the Arab World. The four-day meeting will discuss the statistics situation in the Arab World through a review of statistics operations in a number of Arab states, the role of the Arab institute in developing Arab countries' statistics organisations, and training of Arab personnel in statistics-related affairs (Petra).

DEVELOPMENT: A general meeting was held at Tafleeh in southern Jordan Saturday to review progress in implementing development projects in Tafleeh Governorate. Projects executed in the past five years and others planned for the coming two years were reviewed at the meeting which was chaired by the deputy governor and attended by heads of municipal councils and development council members (Petra).

SCHOOLS: Construction of schools in Balqa Governorate for the 1989-1990 scholastic year cost JD 3,637,779 (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalous at Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Moroccan artist Al Hashemi Izza at the Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh.
- ★ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ An art exhibition by Yusra Abu Ghazaleh at Philadelphia Hall, Holiday Inn.
- ★ A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting Jordan's historical and touristic sites at the University of Jordan.
- ★ An exhibition of Jordanian national heritage displaying Jordanian-made carpets and traditional costumes at the University of Jordan.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture by Butheina Jandaneh, in which she will compare the British institutions that she visited recently with similar Jordanian organisations and will assess the state of women's affairs in the Kingdom, at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A feature film entitled "Bye Bye Birdie" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fehed Fanek

The services sector does not need too much defence, at least in the present circumstances. It is the sector most able to create maximum jobs at minimum capital cost. It is also the sector where Jordan has a comparative advantage as a result of its excellent manpower. In view of the unemployment of most production factors, the expansion in the production of services would not be at the expense of the production of commodities.

Nevertheless, I shall defend the services sector from a completely different view point. I argue that the volume of services produced in Jordan is not excessive even though it makes over 63 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). The reason is that a substantial portion of the services was produced for export and not for domestic consumption. I previously pointed that out but never quantified the export element of the services output.

Going back to the actual figures of 1987, the most recent year with available statistics, we find that the total value of services produced in Jordan reached JD 921 million at factor cost, an amount that forms 63.6 per cent of GDP, a percentage which, I admit, looks too high at the first glance.

However, a thorough examination of the balance of payments reveals that the value of services sold to tourists were JD 196.4

million, the price of land and air transport rendered to non-Jordanians and paid in foreign exchange was JD 117 million. The cost of insurance and freight services provided for external customers was JD 20.9 million. That is over and above other a variety of services produced in Jordan and consumed by non-Jordanians in the amount of JD 99 million. Thus the total services produced by the Jordanian economy for export was JD 433 million, or 47 per cent of all services produced in Jordan. The remaining services which were meant for local consumption are down to 33.7 per cent and not 63.6 per cent of GDP.

I have to stress here that the exported services that were taken into account in the above analysis are only the services produced within Jordan for export to non-residents. I did not count all services listed in the credit side of the balance of payments. Specifically I excluded the services of Jordanian expatriates and the resulting remittances, and also excluded the official transfers, i.e., Arah aid, although remittances and transfers are, in a way, exported services.

The conclusion is that the services in Jordan are not inflated as those who do not go beyond the figures and dead statistics may think.

On the other hand, the classification of goods into commodities and services in both the gross domestic product and the balance of payments would indicate that the aggregate expenditure on consumption and investment in Jordan reached JD 1,773.9 million in 1987. Among this amount only JD 641.7 million represent services, after adding all imported services and subtracting all exported services. The services ratio is thus 36.1 per cent while the balance represents commodities.

It remains to be pointed out that the distinction between commodities and services is not clear nor meaningful in most cases. Is medicine, for instance, a commodity or part of health services? Is the television a commodity or a cultural and recreational service? Is the telephone set a commodity or a communication service? Do trucks represent commodities or transport service? Is the foreign know-how a service, even if it was used as input in the production of a commodity? Finally, is the dollar earned from exporting a service different from the dollar received from exporting a commodity?

Perhaps there is some imbalance here and there in the Jordanian economy, but the high ratio of services in both production and consumption is not one of these imbalances.

No real opening in sight for Albania

By Dusan Stojanovic
The Associated Press

throw away food and feed strays.

As Tirana's street lights are gradually extinguished to comply with official rationing of electricity, the capital becomes shrouded in virtual darkness. Hoxha's fondlily museum and his downtown statue its sole beacons.

The museum, featuring mementos from Hoxha's life, is Albania's most luxurious building by far, a local guide said.

The cone-shaped marble building—decorated inside with brass fittings, thick carpeting and the latest imported video equipment projecting Hoxha's speeches—already has become a shrine for thousands who visit it daily.

Despite Albania's isolationism, its inhabitants are avid listeners to foreign radio programmes, which have never been jammed. Reception of Yugoslav, Greek and Italian television programmes also is fairly good in most of the country.

Albanians used to hide antennas under their rooftops. When Hoxha died after a 41-year rule, people gradually became bolder. Now, forests of antennas have sprouted atop the decrepit concrete apartment blocks where

TIRANA, Albania — A popular local joke says Albanian pessimists are learning Russian, while optimists study English.

However, a newly erected gold-plated statue of Communist Albania's late leader, Enver Hoxha, seems intended to remind residents not to harbour illusions or hopes that this isolated country will veer either to the West or East soon.

The gleaming statue on Tirana's main square and Hoxha's ultramodern memorial nearby, both unveiled last October, symbolise the country's continuing rigid isolationism, diplomats in Tirana said.

Since World War II, Albania, with a population of about 3 million, has been "sealed off by Europe's harshest regime."

Diplomats interviewed in Tirana maintain, however, that most Albanians, who cannot travel abroad, are generally well-informed and knowledgeable of what is going on in the world and that many hope for an end to the isolation.

most Albanians live.

The Sigurimi, Albania's secret police, still carefully watch Albanians' contacts with foreigners. But a group of foreigners who visited recently found themselves the objects of friendly waves and occasional questions from local citizens.

At a recent soccer match between Albania and England, a man speaking perfect British-accented English climbed into a bus earmarked for foreign correspondents, asking for a BBC radio sports commentator.

"I'm so glad to finally meet you in person — my friends and I have been listening to your commentaries for so many years," he told the reporter, claiming that the BBC's world service had a wide audience in Albania.

Despite the conspicuous economic hardships, Tirana maintains a pleasant and rather pristine simplicity. The sunny Mediterranean climate seems to contribute to a more relaxed atmosphere than is usually encountered in other Eastern European countries.

Even in winter, the weather in this small capital remains balmy and warm in daytime, with crystal-clear air — the result of the lack of industry and almost no traffic. Albanians are not allowed to own private cars.

Under Ramiz Alia, who took over after Hoxha's death four years ago, Albania has cautiously expanded political ties with several Western countries, including establishment of diplomatic relations with West Germany.

However, Albania's overall trade figures have not increased appreciably, and the number of foreigners allowed into the country has remained constant at only about 10,000 annually.

"We don't need tourism to make profits," said Hajrije Shilegu, an official of Alburtist, the country's sole, state-run tourist agency.

"We like our foreign friends to see our country, but we have no plans to expand tourism," she told the Associated Press.

Albania's constitution expressly forbids taking out foreign loans and says imports should not exceed exports. These strictures are generally blamed for the stagnating trade figures.

Obstacles to admitting foreign tourists into the country seem to be of a different nature.

One diplomat in Tirana speculated that the government fears a negative influence on the local population if an influx of Western tourists were to show "their affluence to the poorest people in Europe."


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Rare foreign visitors to Albania claim that if this country of beautiful mountain vistas and long sandy beaches opened its borders, it immediately would become a European tourist haven.

"Alia is hiding behind Hoxha's legacy, and everything he does is officially attributed to our late leader's isolationist road," said an Albanian in Tirana, who approached a Western reporter and claimed to belong to an underground dissident movement.

There was no way to verify the claim. But if such a previously unheard-of movement exists, it would be a sign of public dissatisfaction with the leadership's consistent failure to provide better living standards.

Europe's poorest and least-developed country already is facing severe shortages of basic foodstuffs and consumer goods, exacerbated by the most severe winter drought in 40 years.

"Before drinking water, everyone should remember that it must be conserved as much as possible," say numerous billboards on Tirana streets.

Long lines of customers can be seen waiting patiently on Tirana sidewalks for items such as shaving cream and thread, in front of stores that don't allow shoppers outside but sell their wares through small windows in order to avoid a crush of buyers.

No stray dogs or cats are seen on the streets of this city of about 300,000 people. One Albanian exclaimed: "We cannot afford to

Djibouti grapples with Somali refugees

By David Ressler
Reuters

DJIBOUTI — The civil war in neighboring northern Somalia is sending a flood of refugees pouring into Djibouti.

Thousands of refugees have already fled to this small desert nation since the war hotted up last June — and more are coming now.

"The people on the streets, the beggars, they are the Somalis ... for the past two or three weeks, they have been coming," said Moussa Warsama, a coordinator of the local Red Crescent Society.

Interior Minister Khaireh Allah Hared told Reuters there were now tens of thousands of Somalis in Djibouti who had fled the war.

The strain is beginning to tell on Djibouti, whose 450,000 people earn their living from a seaport connected by rail to Ethiopia and a French air and naval base.

"How many other countries would be ready to have on their soil refugees amounting to one-twentieth of their population?" the interior minister said.

Somali refugees arriving here

bring stories of what appears to be the start of a major dry season army offensive.

"It reminds me very much of the situation just before last June," said one Djibouti government official, who spoke on condition he was not identified.

At that time, the rebel Somali National Movement, which had been fighting a low-level guerrilla war in the north since 1981, launched a major offensive.

The rebels captured Burao, one of the three main towns in northern Somalia, and occupied most of the northern capital of Hargeisa for several weeks before they were driven out in mid-August.

Hargeisa was flattened by the heavy fighting, 400,000 refugees fled south into Ethiopia, and several thousand more made their way to Djibouti.

Apart from the refugees there are also many people inside Somalia who have been displaced by the war.

"My mother had always lived in Burao, ever since she was little, but now she is a nomad. She left the town and took up with our relatives who still tend

cattle," said Mohammad Hassan, a Somali schoolteacher now living in Djibouti.

Somali exiles in Djibouti say that in the past two weeks rebel and government troops have clashed at the villages of Ainabao and Odeuna on the main road from Buraao to Mogadishu and at Sharmarka, further west near Hargeisa.

They said these skirmishes seem to be the start of a struggle for control of the desert region's few permanent water sources.

The exiles said the government is already trying to bring the area's nomads behind its lines where the water is, in a bid to consolidate its hold on the north.

If, instead, the nomads come to Djibouti, most will probably end up staying with members of their extended families.

"This is a refugee camp, you know. I have six people staying with me," said Olad, a Somali exile who has a house in Djibouti's industrial district.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative in Africa, Alain-Albert Peters, told Reuters in Addis Ababa recently

that there was little prospect of an early repatriation of the Somali refugees in Ethiopia.

The UNHCR has suggested Djibouti grant refugee status to the Somalis who are here, but Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah said the government feared such a move would clear the way for their long-term settlement in Djibouti.

For the same reason, Djibouti does not want to establish refugee camps.

"When the people came from the Ogaden war (between Ethiopia and Somalia in 1977 and 1978), that was what we did, but they stayed so long they became people who were here for economic reasons," Bahdon Farah said.

"We are convinced that that is something we do not want to start again," he added.

The last of the 40,000 Ethiopian refugees who fled to Djibouti during the Ogaden conflict were repatriated last month.

But Bahdon Farah said Djibouti would not shut its doors to people fleeing from war.

"Of course we will let them in. What else can we do," he said.

Who is the boss in El Salvador?

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

SAN SALVADOR — A right-wing triumph in El Salvador's presidential elections has prompted speculation over who will be the real boss — president-elect Alfredo Cristiani or far-right firebrand Roberto D'Aubuisson.

A 41-year-old millionaire educated in the United States, Cristiani was named Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) president in 1985 to soften the party's image as an organisation associated with right-wing death squads that have murdered thousands of civilians suspected of left-wing sympathies.

But many analysts consider that party founder D'Aubuisson, a retired army major who has been accused in public of instigating death squad killings, remains ARENA's most powerful figure.

Cristiani won an absolute majority in the poll which turned ARENA into El Salvador's principal political force. The party's control now extends from parliament and most mayors' offices to the presidency.

ARENA's electoral advances over the past year sealed the gradual decline of the U.S.-backed

ed Christian Democratic Party and its leader, outgoing President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

Despite Cristiani's victory by a margin much larger than predicted, diplomatic analysts here said it remained to be seen how much power he could wield once he takes office on June 1.

"If there were a showdown today between Cristiani and D'Auboussin," said a Western diplomat, "there would be no doubt over its outcome. Cristiani would lose. Whether this would still hold true in six months or a year, no one knows."

Such uncertainties are shared


EL SALVADOR

A map showing the geographical context of El Salvador. The map includes labels for Mexico to the north, Guatemala to the west, Belize to the northeast, and the Pacific Ocean to the south. Within El Salvador, several locations are marked: Santa Ana, San Salvador (the capital), Zaca, Zacapecora, and San Miguel. The map uses hatching to indicate different terrain or administrative regions.

in Washington, which has pumped around \$1.2 million a day into El Salvador to prop up its Christian Democratic allies and prevent left-wing guerrillas from gaining the upper hand in a civil war which has claimed an estimated 70,000 lives.

U.S. embassy officials here say they keep receiving inquiries from the administration and congressional leaders asking who is really in charge of ARENA. The question, inquirers are told, cannot be answered yet.

Cristiani, a coffee grower with no political experience before he took the ARENA job, has por-



250 miles

Caribbean Sea

Honduras

EL SALVADOR

Nicaragua

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trayed himself as a moderating force in the party.

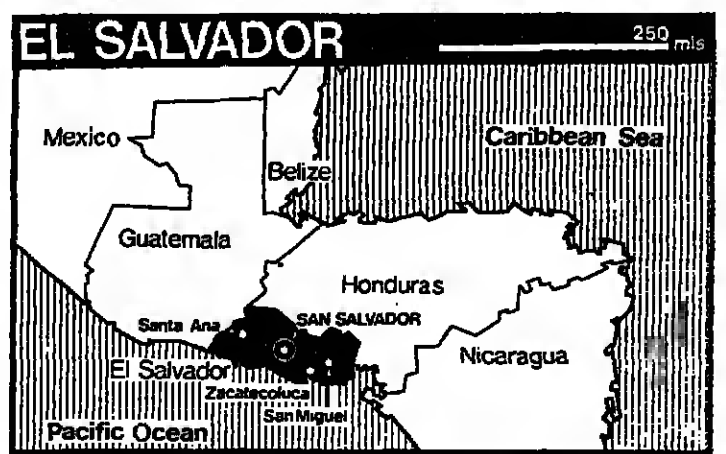
But diplomats say neither its ideology nor its core membership have changed substantially since the party was formed as a bulwark against what D'Auboussin saw as Communist advances in El Salvador, to be stopped by whatever means necessary.

One senior envoy here foresaw three right-wing power centres after the elections: a cabinet of technocrats dominated by Cristiani, the party machine controlled by D'Auboussin, and the legislative assembly (parliament), dominated by a hard-line retired colonel, Sigifredo Ochoa.

Ochoa is vice president of the assembly, where ARENA holds 32 of the 60 seats. A member of ARENA's executive committee, he joined the party in 1987 after a controversial army career which included a 1983 mutiny.

In Ochoa's view, the 47,000-strong armed forces have been held back for political reasons in their war against the guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

When Ochoa was in charge of the province of Cabañas, U.S. military advisers rated him as El Salvador's most successful counter-insurgency commander.



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There is no doubt that the summit of King Hussein, President Hosni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, if it takes place, would serve as an added valuable step towards the Arab house in perfect order in preparation for the next round in the peace process in the Middle East. It goes without saying that an enhanced degree of understanding and synchronisation between Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), prior to the visit to Washington by His Majesty King Hussein and President Mubarak, would constitute one of the principal pillars on which an operational peace process can be constructed. As all three continue to work on the same wavelength, a summit between them now would go a long way to consolidate and fortify the level of cooperation between them. The more the Arab parties directly concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflicts speak with one tongue and voice coherent and credible their stance on these issues would become.

It is important to note that the Hussein-Mubarak-Arafat summit, the current visit of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia to Egypt, the visits to Baghdad and Cairo by King Fahd, the renewed effort by Saudi Arabia to add muscle and weight to the efforts of the Arab World to resolve its regional conflicts, be they in the Gulf or in the Middle East, and the recent Arab exchanges of views on the highest level, all add up to an important, they can never be a substitute for an Arab summit which the Arab World has been waiting for such a long time. It is unfortunate that the Arab world is not able to hold their much awaited summit at the behest of His Majesty King Hussein and President Mubarak, the U.S. in the course of the next few months. Any non-fulfilment of the Arab promise to convene an Arab summit would weaken the Arab resolve to resolve its various conflicts that the Arab World is now facing in these contemporary times. Worst still, the convening of such a summit would send the wrong message to the East and the West, including Israel, that all is well in the Arab house. The urgency of an Arab summit is accentuated by the fact that there has been a historic shift, which Israel in favour of entering into a dialogue with the PLO. This is not to mention the valuable treaty talks that occurred in Washington vis-a-vis the ending of the conflict and the role of the PLO in the quest for a permanent solution to the Arab-Israeli conflicts. These developments would naturally warrant a positive Arab position.

With the much required for Arab summit materialises, the Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli conflicts are duty bound to negotiate the best that they could by convening minimum talks with the avowed hope that soon after the grand Arab summit would be called to order.

ALABAMA PRESS EDITORIALS

Yassir Arafat has received a gift from Israel on the fifth anniversary of the Camp David agreements and the gift was a hostile media campaign in the Egyptian government for its pan-Arab stand, and the daily Al-Naba Saturday. The paper said that the Egypt's support for the Palestinian people's rights and the uprising, its involvement in the Arab Cooperation Council and its continued presence in the Arab League have prompted the Israelis to launch their propaganda through its media against the Egyptian government and its people. The hostile attitude towards Egypt, the paper noted, is a clear indication of Israel's aggressive attitude towards the Arab world. Arabised policies and is part of an Israeli drive to isolate the Egyptian government and to force it to deviate from its national policies. The paper said that Egypt, which joined the Arab League in Council, is determined to go ahead with its policy of standing up to back the Palestinian people's rights in their struggle against the policy of terrorism or intimidation or blackmail. The paper can be any way affect this national stand.

A columnist in Al-Naba daily warns the Arabs not to be over-optimistic over prospects of a solution for the Middle East problem. He says that any diplomatic negotiations, Tareq Masarweh writes, will not be fruitful until they achieve military parity with the Israelis. He says that the Arabs should strengthen and back the Palestinian resistance and be realistic in their view that they must sit with them at a round table for an international peace conference. The writer says that the Arabs must be strong enough, and can by no means help the Israelis to achieve their desired rights. What weapons the Arabs have in their arsenal is augmented to match the Israeli arsenal on the ground and the intifada which is going on in the occupied territories. He says the president should be backed with all their strength and the intifada should be trusted in ending the problem and the Israeli aggression. He adds: He says that Israeli is avoiding the confrontation with the PLO and the leaders of the intifada because they are afraid that they are really in clash with its forces and who will force the presence of Israel in the occupied territories. He calls on the Arabs to arm themselves and be ready for any clash with the Israelis at the diplomatic and the military levels before building up unwarranted optimism for a solution.

The daily newspaper referred to the on-going efforts at the negotiation in Israel which, it said, are being met with more and more indifference and obstinacy by Israel. The paper said that the Israeli government is allocating \$10 million for new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories reflects Israel's real evil intentions and its continued pursuit of aggression and occupation against the Arabs. The paper said the allocation paves the way for a new wave of settlements building on the Arab lands and demonstrates Israel's total disregard to the world community's call for peace and a real challenge for the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular. Indeed, one can consider this allocation as a challenge directed to the Bush administration which has been calling on Israel to refrain from doing anything that would exacerbate tension, and which is now preparing for a meeting with Yitzhak Shamir over the future of the occupied Palestinian territories. It said unless Shamir is confronted by a strong stance on the part of the Bush administration, American efforts to bring an end to the drain and the aspired peace will remain as mere words.

China battles to save its environment

By Nancy Nash

CHINA — The Great Wall of China, a 2,000-kilometre-long, 2,000-year-old wonder of the ancient world, may have a rival by the year 2000: a Great Green Wall of forests crossing the country from northwest to northeast.

Architects in the central government and ministries responsible for environmental matters envisage a total of 53 million hectares of green protection from encroaching deserts and erosion, stretching through some 396 counties in 12 provinces.

Symmetry, as in the recurring numbers above, is admired in China. But the plan, repeatedly announced, is now received with widespread scepticism. Optimists, however, hope it will bear fruit. The trees are desperately needed, not only as barriers to dust and sand storms from the north, but also to increase the nation's forest cover, which now stands at a mere 12.7 per cent of China's vast territory.

In all, only 10-15 per cent of the land can be used for farming. The rest is too frozen or sterile, too high, or too exhausted. Intensely, but carefully, cultivated for centuries, soils have been degraded to a critical level only

within the past 150 years. The worst destruction has taken place since the 1960s, when the Mao Zedong era's radical agricultural policies joined forces with fast-growing, poorly planned and heavily polluting industrial development.

Erosion

At best, with rational planning and use, a few farms may be able to duplicate the success of scarce "model" rice-growing areas in the south which now enjoy three rice harvests a year (instead of the usual two) without damaging soil fertility. About 1.5 million square kilometres of land — roughly one sixth of the total — is affected by erosion. In 1988 more than 11 million hectares of farmland, one tenth of the total sown acreage, suffered from severe drought. Another 7.5 million hectares of crops were flooded, and grain output has been dropping steadily, despite more land being put to the plough.

A grain exporter in 1985-86, China is now importing more than 1 billion tonnes of food staples to feed its population. Moreover, while advances have been made in animal husbandry, grazing lands have been notoriously overexploited and in many

areas have turned into semi-deserts.

The Yellow River, known as "China's Sorrow," brings down in its waters the most silt of any river in the world. A great deal of this is dumped in the Yellow Sea, but much of it is deposited along the way, improving soil conditions and turning barren alkaline land into fertile fields.

Only when the river surges through the Loess Plateau does it become a torrent the colour of mud. Today, in many places, the Yellow River is an astounding 10 metres above the surrounding countryside. Dykes, requiring constant reinforcement, line its banks.

In all big cities, including the capital Beijing, sulphur dioxide and dust levels in the atmosphere surpass the norms set by the state. The most seriously polluted city in China — and perhaps the world — is Bendi. This city of more than one million inhabitants, situated in Liaoning Province, contains some 420 factories, half of which contribute to air pollution. Every year the city's factories pump 213,000 tonnes of smoke and dust into the air along with 87 billion cubic metres of polluting gases.

A few years ago Bendi simply

vanished from satellite photos, disappearing under a blanket of atmospheric pollution. It has yet to see the light of day.

Pollution, pollution

Shanghai, one of the world's largest municipalities with more than 14 million people, not only suffers from air pollution but is also plagued with coastal pollution. Much of the city's municipal and industrial wastes are simply flushed untreated into rivers and shallow coastal waters.

Chinese rivers and lakes fare little better than coastal areas. Some 34 billion tonnes of municipal and industrial wastes are flushed into China's rivers and streams every year. About 80 per cent is said to be discharged directly without any kind of pre-treatment. The Yangtze River, for example, in addition to being clogged with 500 million tonnes of silt, is also polluted with 13 million tonnes of municipal and industrial wastes. The cost of not treating solid and liquid wastes has been estimated at 2 billion yuan (\$550 million) a year.

At the bottom of China's environmental crisis is an acute lack of funds — currently only 0.6 per cent of the national budget is devoted to pollution control and

environment protection, and any real progress is unlikely until the market forces unleashed as part of the country's economic reforms are brought under control.

The eventual aim of reforestation efforts is to increase the country's vegetation cover to 30 per cent of the total land area. In order to accomplish this Promethean task, many different activities have been inaugurated. In 1981 an annual "Tree Planting Day" was established. Now every year on 12 March, civil servants, military dignitaries, representatives of work brigades, school children and pensioners throughout the country join together to plant seeds and seedlings along city streets, in parks, on river banks and on steep mountain slopes.

Rebuilding forests by aerial seeding is also a method particularly well suited to China's vast land mass, and poorly developed road system. But sowing seeds from the air has met with only mixed success.

The drawbacks to large areas of monocultures have been recognised and the fast-growing species of pine and acacia originally used have been mixed with more than 15 varieties of coniferous and



broadleaf, arbour, shrub and grass species.

A highly lauded forest farm in Sichuan Province credits afforestation with increased precipitation in the dry season, reduced soil erosion and a halt to the flooding of some 10 rivers in the region. Such successes, however, often come with high price tags: in this case some 170,000 hectares of air-seeded forest took 20 years of arduous work.

In the end, China's policies have to be accepted by the country's gigantic population. That population, by its sheer numbers, remains the key problem as well as the key to its solution — People's features.



An evening outfit from Yves Saint Laurent. The printed satin is from the house of Abraham AG, Zurich.



The Saint-Laurent look!



Evening outfit from Yves Saint Laurent. The magnificent silk fabrics were created by Abraham AG, Zurich.

Saint Laurent unveils glowing jewel box

By Michela Wrong

PARIS — Fashion legend Yves Saint Laurent Wednesday unveiled a glowing jewel box of red, turquoise, green and pink in an autumn and winter collection that brought to mind the exotic masterpieces of Paul Gauguin.

Saint Laurent's ready-to-wear show had brocade jackets in glistering azure, lime and apricot worn over glossy satin pants or lame sarongs ruthlessly slashed to the thigh and waist.

There were also formal velvet jackets in black, purple and bottle green embroidered with bright tongues of orange and yellow or splashed with glitter.

The bold colours and rich fabrics mirrored the strong palette of French expressionist painter Gauguin. An exhibition of the 19th century artist's works is currently drawing record crowds at Paris's Grand Palais.

Saint Laurent hijacked that staple of the male wardrobe, the tuxedo, and appropriated it for female use, worn short and sharp over slinky black skirts or loose satin trousers.

"Le smoking," as it is known in French, has always been a Saint Laurent speciality and it made a particularly strong showing in Wednesday's collection.

At the end the camera-shy Saint Laurent slouched clumsily onto the catwalk with his head bowed to receive his customary standing ovation from the crowd.

"It wasn't great, it was wonderful," said an admirer.

The collection by the man still widely regarded as the king of French fashion wound up eight days of ready-to-wear shows in the Louvre museum's courtyard, carefully monitored by buyers anxious to know what women will be wearing six months hence.

Given the radically different styles seen on the catwalks, overall predictions are always hard to make. But fashion huffs agree the shows generally last year's trend to looser, casual clothes, replacing the angular outlines of the power-dressing executive woman.

The emphasis on hemlines, once a crucial fashion indicator, has been thrown to the four winds.

American designer Patrik Kelly showed sexy jersey dresses scraping the thighs. Japanese house comme des garçons' sack skirts fell to mid-ankle, while most of the other stylists favoured long midi skirts that look best on tall women.

Italy's Valentino and Frenchman Emanuel Ungaro went their own way with short, straight pencil skirts judged by many fashion experts not to be entirely in keeping with the times.

"In general the look is longer this year, although designers are compromising by offering a choice," said one buyer.

Many designers sidestepped the whole long-or-short debate by eliminating skirts altogether. West German Karl Lagerfeld and Japan's Issey Miyake offered clinging body suits or ribbed tops worn directly over woolly tights

for a leggy 1960s look.

Jean-Paul Gaultier, the "enfant terrible" of French fashion, hit on his own solution by putting drain-pipe trousers and slim leggings under short pleated skirts. The trouser-and-skirt idea was also used by Italian Angelo Tarlazzi.

Trouser suits made a strong

showing as designers adapted to the practical needs of working women. But no one could accuse these outfits of lacking femininity — loosely cut in soft fabrics, they looked as comfortable as pyjamas.

Trousers remained wide out graceful, often tapering delicately towards the feet or cropped at the ankles.

Long tailored jackets, tight at the waist and falling low over the thighs, were one of the season's highlights.

Another idea many designers experimented with was the short cape jacket, flaring from the shoulders but cut off well above

the waist. Its full length equivalent was also very popular.

The mundane scarf was also put to novel uses. Italian Romeo Gigli, whose first ready-to-wear show in Paris won rave reviews, fastened scarves tightly around the body while in other shows it was hard to know where the scarf ended and the coats began.

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T.V. Guide

On Monday night on Channel 2 at 10:20, the 13th episode of the series *The Crown* will be shown. This week's episode is entitled "Pandora's Box." Special challenges take place to find out how Merck was killed. Britain decides to leave India to give it the freedom of self-determination by itself.

On Wednesday night also on Channel 2, at 16:20 a new mini-series entitled *Booker* will be shown. The series stars Shavar Ross, James Bond III and Levar Burton. The story of the struggle of the Blacks during the Civil War in America between the northern and southern states. It resulted in the liberation of the slaves and allowing them for the first time, to learn reading and writing.

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STRIPES

Performances 3.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30

'No one wants another oil boom but no one wants another bust either'

Oil price rises bring good news for Gulf Arab planners

DUBAI (R) — Oil prices are strengthening at just the right time to lubricate the economies of major crude-producing states around the Gulf in 1989.

Regional economists said that while no one is betting on a sustained price rise, a rough average of \$17 to \$18 a barrel for the year would fit nicely into the planned budgets of states which rely primarily on oil for their revenues.

The New York oil futures market recently pushed benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for May delivery up 70 cents to \$20.05 a barrel and North Sea Brent, the most widely traded international crude, up 55 cents to \$18.50, the highest in 15 months.

Three months ago, oil analysts were looking for a 1989 average

of around \$15 to \$16 a barrel.

That extra \$1 or \$2 could, for example, put Saudi Arabia's planned 1989 revenue of 116 billion riyals (\$31 billion) well on target, said one Arab banker.

It could also help narrow Oman's projected \$1.1 billion budget deficit for this year, which the government cautiously predicted in January against a background of weaker oil prices.

Looked at from Iran's point of view, it could add as much as \$1 billion to government earnings in the fiscal year 1989/90, which started last Tuesday.

That is as much as Iran's government, which is seriously strapped

for cash, is allowing its energy ministry this year to borrow abroad to upgrade its inadequate national power grid.

The Arab states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain — are in sore need of calm after a roller-coaster ride through the 1980s, the economists said.

A world oil glut depressed prices which fell further as oil producers fought for market share, sending budget deficits soaring and growth plummeting.

The eight-year war between Iran and Iraq, which ended only last August, also dampened regional economies. Weak oil prices seriously damaged the combatants, which had to fund a war with oil assets continually declining in value.

Between 1981 and 1987, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE each suffered five years when their economies contracted.

"No one wants another oil boom but no one wants another oil bust either," said one U.S. businessman based in the UAE.

Booms and busts both mean trouble for governments, which get caught trying to suppress destabilising inflation during a boom, or fighting disastrous deflation during a bust.

For businessmen in the Gulf a period of possible steady economic performance is also better.

"If it's a bust, I'm left with all my stocks and can't sell them, if it's a boom, I sell my stock in six months and anger customers

who come later," said one U.S. machine plant salesman in Dubai.

However, the conditions which have sustained the latest oil market rally could easily disappear, the economists said.

U.S. oil traders said oil rose because the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) looked to be sticking to its self-imposed oil quota of 18.5 million barrels a day, and non-OPEC producers looked set to support lower production.

"But there is still an overhang (of supplies) in the market and there is always a temptation to overproduce," said a research economist at a Gulf-based Arab bank.

Former Saudi oil minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani said this month that Iran and Iraq, both OPEC members, were likely to press for higher quotas later in the year to further boost revenues.

Oil analysts also noted that OPEC's long-term strategy was to take all extra world demand as it appeared to regain the market share it lost to non-OPEC producers in the 1980s.

Abu Dhabi Supreme Petroleum Council chief Sohail Faris Al Mazrui told Reuters last week that OPEC could raise the quota ceiling to possibly 19.5 million barrels a day this year due to rising world oil demand.

Gulf International Bank chief economist Henry Azzam calculates that OPEC's share of the world oil market fell from 68 per cent in 1979 to around 40 per cent in 1987.

Losses of U.S. savings and loan institutions amount to \$12b in '88

WASHINGTON (AP) — The battered U.S. savings and loan industry lost \$12.1 billion last year and is facing a continued drain in 1989 from rising interest rates, the government has said.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board, a government agency, said the nation's 2,949 savings and loan institutions lost \$2.3 billion in the fourth quarter, pushing red ink for the year well past the previous record of \$7.8 billion set in 1987.

The bank board said the heaviest losses continue to be concentrated in just a few institutions, with the 20 most-troubled institutions losing \$2 billion in the fourth quarter.

For the year, the 12 per cent of the industry that is insolvent lost \$14.8 billion, more than swamping the \$2.7 billion earned by solvent institutions.

Their losses have been building for a decade because of a combination of economic turmoil, uneven deregulation, sloppy government supervision and sometimes poor or fraudulent management.

The agency also said the number of insolvent institutions at year-end declined for the first time in the decade from 520 at the

end of 1987 to 364 at the end of 1988. That was the result of another post-depression record of 223 savings and loan closings and government-assisted mergers.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that creditors owed money by insolvent savings and loan institutions do not have to wait for a federal regulatory agency to act before they take the institutions to court.

In a significant victory for the thousands of creditors owed billions by failed savings and loan institutions nationwide, the court said federal courts may hear such lawsuits before any action is taken by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

James Barth, chief economist of the bank board, said rising interest rates in 1989 would be "obviously adverse, not good."

"Operating income should be lower across the board for all thrifts (institutions) in the first and second quarters," Barth said. Much of 1988's red ink was old in the sense that institutions finally got around to recognizing bad loans that had long ago gone sour.

Analysts are divided over how many more loan losses remain hidden in failed, but still open, institutions, but they are unanimous that it will be tougher than last year for the profitable segment of the industry to make a dollar.

The problem is interest rates. Savings and loans make their money by borrowing short-term, from depositors, and lending long-term, for mortgages and other purposes. When rates follow the normal pattern — high long rates and low short rates, institutions earn more on loans than they pay to depositors.

But currently short-term rates approach and in some cases surpass long-term rates, severely cutting into profitable thrifts' earnings.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Riyadh to finance Egyptian food imports

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia is to pay for \$2 billion worth of food for Egypt, bankers in the kingdom said Friday. Bankers and diplomats said some state-owned banks had received instructions from Riyadh to start arrangements to finance the purchase of foodstuffs for Egypt. Arab aid to Cairo, burdened by a \$43 billion foreign debt, was cut when it signed a peace treaty with Israel 10 years ago. Saudi Arabia, like most Arab states, has now restored ties with Egypt. King Fahd sent three television broadcast microwave systems to Egypt last week after a fire damaged the top three floors of the Cairo television building and ruined equipment.

Eastern's woes benefit Continental

HOUSTON (AP) — Continental Airlines may have inherited some union unrest from strikebound sister Eastern airlines, but observers say the Houston-based carrier also has benefited from more routes, more passengers and more profits. Continental, despite a purportedly unrelated walkout by a few of its flight attendants, has moved to capture its share of travellers since the walkout by Eastern machinists and pilots crippled the Miami-based airline, driving it to file for bankruptcy court protection from its creditors.

IMF approves Philippine's programme

MANILA (AP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved an economic programme for the Philippines which paves the way for the approval of \$1.3 billion in new loans, Philippine Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme said Saturday. Jayme told reporters that with the approval, the country also can now prepare for talks with commercial banks set for April 10 in New York. The Philippines is expected to get \$900 million from the IMF's extended fund facility programme and \$400 million in contingency funds.

Soviet Union to lend China \$125m

PEKING (AP) — The Soviet Union is to provide 200 million Swiss francs (\$125 million) in credit in the first Soviet loan to China since relations between the two countries soured in the late 1950s. The low interest credit will be used to modernise the Baotou iron and steel works in inner Mongolia autonomous region, the official China Daily has said. China will purchase Soviet technology and equipment to improve production techniques of seamless steel tubes and railway tracks, the report said. The daily said steel output at the Baotou works will increase 10 per cent after the renovation. It said details of the loan were discussed during a recent visit by Soviet Ferrous Metals Industry Minister Serafim Vasilevich Kolpakov.

De Beers hikes diamond prices by nearly 15.5%

LONDON (R) — South African diamond empire De Beers has said its London-based marketing arm, the Central Selling Organisation (CSO), was raising its prices for roughgem diamonds by an average 15.5 per cent.

Industry sources say the CSO controls 80 per cent of world trade in rough diamonds, selling stones from the Soviet Union, Zaire, Australia and Botswana as well as for De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd.

The increase, the fifth in three years, takes effect at the CSO's next sale, known as a "sight," on March 28.

Michael Oliver, a market analyst at London stockbroker James Capel, said: "De Beers must feel the market is resilient. It's confirmation things are going very well."

Andy Lamont, a spokesman for De Beers, said retail diamond sales in Japan, the second largest market after the United States, had been strong in 1988.

He said Japanese sales had not been depressed by the period of mourning following the death in January of Emperor Hirohito, as was initially feared.

The CSO had 10 "sights" a year at which about 150 customers representing diamond cutters in Antwerp, Tel Aviv, Bombay and New York, view and pay for gems they have ordered in advance.

The CSO, which last raised prices by 13.5 per cent in May 1988, sold rough diamonds worth a record \$4.17 billion last year, up by 36 per cent from 1987.

Britain's Office of Fair Trading is following up a monopoly complaint against the CSO lodged early this year by British mining giant Consolidated Gold Fields PLC (Cons Gold).

Cons Gold made the complaint in the midst of its campaign to fight off a hostile takeover bid from Minerals and Resources Corp Ltd (Minorco), a Luxembourg-based offshoot of De Beers and its affiliate Anglo American Corp of South Africa Ltd.

De Beers and Anglo American are both controlled by South Africa's Oppenheimer family.

Recruit Co. to penalise executives

TOKYO (AP) — Shareholders of the company at the heart of a wide-ranging stock and bribery scandal have voted to slash executives' salaries and deny retirement pay to the firm's founder, a company official said Saturday.

Some 30 major shareholders of the employment information conglomerate Recruit Co., including company president Naotaka Ida, met Saturday for a general meeting at the firm's headquarters in Tokyo, said spokesman Yasutaka Natsuka.

At the first general meeting since the scandal arose over questionable sales of shares in Recruit's real estate subsidiary, Recruit Cosmos Co., shareholders agreed to reduce Recruit executives' monthly pay by up to 50 per cent and to pay no retirement allowance to Hiromasa Ezoe, the firm's founder and former chairman, news reports said.

Ida's salary was cut by 50 per cent and biannual bonuses to Recruit executives were suspended for one year.

Hundreds of thousands of unlisted shares in Recruit Cosmos were sold to leading political and business figures at discount prices before they were listed in the over-the-counter market.

The shares soared in value after trading began, yielding handsome, tax-free profits for the recipients.

The scandal has generated allegations of bribery by Recruit executives and has seriously shaken public confidence in the administration of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, March 25, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell	French franc	84.8 85.4
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Dutch guilder	408.7 413.0
Pound Sterling	524.3	528.3	Swedish crown	254.5 258.5
Deutschmark	286.8	289.7	Italian lira (for 100)	84.1 84.9
Swiss franc	330.2	333.6	Belgian franc (for 10)	39.0 39.4
				137.3 138.4

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, March 18, '89 and ending Wednesday March 22, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

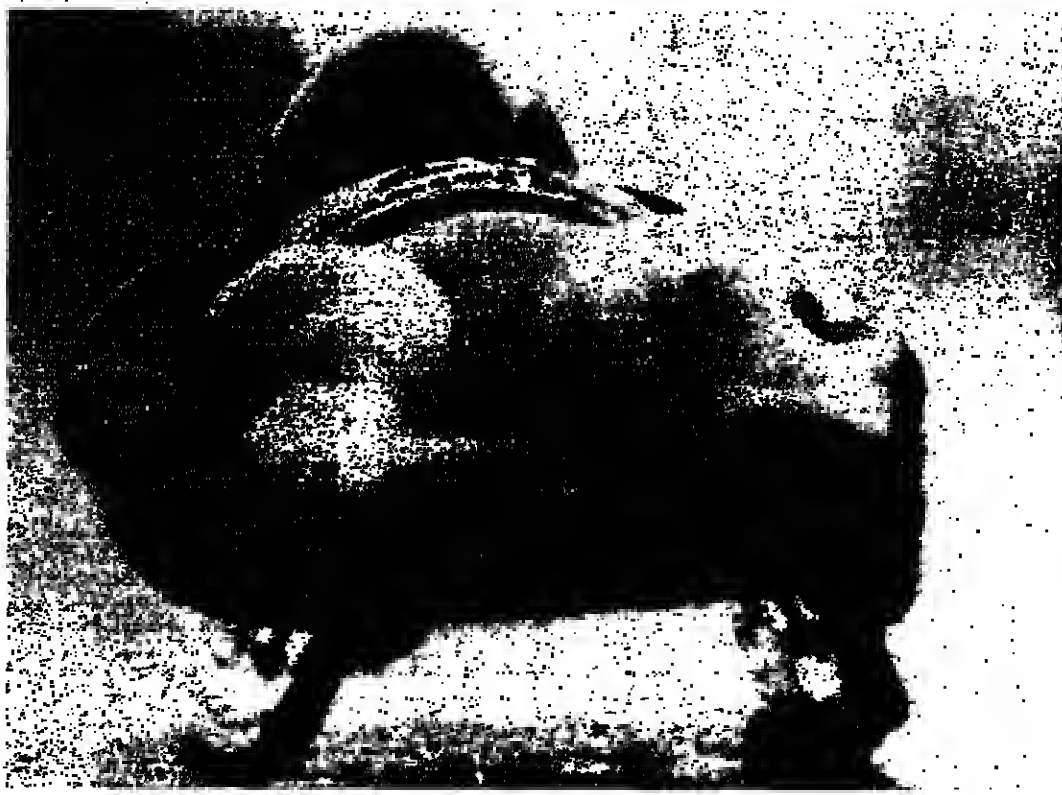
Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	4055	6488	1.600	1.600	1.000
Petra Bank	100	255	2.600	2.550	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	873	1788	2.050	2.040	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	5226	7600	1.520	1.450	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	15865	20757	1.340	1.290	1.000
Housing Bank	8493	16117	1.850	1.880	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	5325	12248	2.350	2.300	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	1313	20045	15.200	15.300	5.000
Arab Bank	2690	379335	144.750	141.250	10.000
Jordan National Bank	39352	100351	2.550	2.550	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	33589	72100	2.450	2.410	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Financial Investments	222418	444907	1.980	2.100	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	3467	3202	0.930	0.940	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	25	438	17.250	17.500	2.000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	8372	8367	0.900	1.000	1.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Middle East Insurance	15500	30790	1.980	1.980	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	12000	42495	3.570	3.540	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	13231	13902	1.030	1.060	1.000
Yamouk Insurance and Reinsurance	2675	3561	1.350	1.300	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahlyia Insurance	300	404	1.460	1.280	1.000
Arab Belgium Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Imma for Investment and Financial Facilities	1274	878	0.670	0.700	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	97067	77919	0.780	0.800	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Agarco)	37896	25220	0.650	0.670	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	32263	12096	0.370	0.380	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	23250	3865	0.670	0.670	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	500	145	0.790	0.790	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	18811	28320	1.540	1.530	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	100	90	0.900	0.900	1.000
Arab International Hotels	205867	184227	0.830	0.900	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	50	38	0.800	0.760	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	815	3749	4.600	4.600	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	11850	12672	1.030	1.070	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	100	308	3.330	3.000	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Shabab Press, Printing and Publishing	48800	25880	0.510	0.530	1.000
Jordan Dairy	9555	5775	0.950	0.980	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	25413	76396	2.940	3.020	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	315018	536272	1.600	1.600	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	3083	10730	3.440	3.500	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Itaj)	1326	2125	1.660	1.620	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	3008	14017	4.670	4.620	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	11050	7630	0.950	0.970	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	62700	118812	1.840	1.900	1.000
Jordan Aluminium Manufacturing	30115	59078	1.900	1.970	1.000
Jordan Wooded Mills	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	9760	19100	1.950	1.960	1.000
Chemical Industries	272500	63734	2.210	2.360	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	47600	33393	0.690	0.700	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	6184	14829	2.340	2.400	1.000
National Steel Industries	17720	48900	2.770	2.770	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	155810	502689	3.180	3.230	5.000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	2814	22007	7.900	7.850	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	160700	35619	0.210	0.220	1.000
National Industries	4429	4329	0.960	0.990	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Investment and International Trade	670	362	0.570	0.540	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	71282	137727	1.770	1.920	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	6900	12054	1.750	1.790	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	53010	52772	0.990	0.990	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	800	801	1.030	1.000	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	82135	79416	0.990	0.980	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	267906	430586	1.420	1.670	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	31799	34167	1.100	1.090	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	19090	51954	2.740	2.740	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	47766	54527	1.150	1.160	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	6350	6389	1.010	1.010	1.000
Grand total	2,351,080	3,997,441			

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 1989

Hackl the human bullet on target

(J. T.) — Down the slippery slope to success: Georg Hackl, a 23 year old German, slid to the world bobsleigh championship title last year on sleds that he makes himself in his fitters' workshop. Hackl so dominated international competition that he had already won the World Cup before the World Championship took place. Asked to comment, he produced one of those dry laconisms for which Bavarians are famed "at present, everything is working out." Until recently, Hackl believed that his slight build would never allow him any outstanding success. "My arms are actually too short for the starting phase," he confided. (INP photo)



Recalde keeps slim lead in 'greatest race'

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Jorge Recalde and Massimo "Miki" Biasion increased their lead for the two-car Lancia Delta Integrale team Saturday as a dwindling field of cars neared the end of the second leg of the safari rally. Recalde, an Argentine making his debut in the 4,217 kilometre (2,614 mile) race, had lost a total of 2:46:01 points at Kabarnet on the edge of the Rift valley, 240 kilometres (149 miles) northwest of Kenya's capital, Nairobi. Biasion, the 1988 world rally champion who gave the Italian-made Lancia its first safari rally victory in 14 attempts last year, was in second place with 2:52:27 penalty points. The Lancias' closest rival, Sweden's Bjorn Waldergaard in a Toyota Supra, was an hour behind with 3:30:23 penalty points.

Kenyan Mike Kirkland, last year's second place finisher, was in fourth place with 3:36:11 penalty points in a Nissan 200SX. Waldergaard, who had been no. 3 a third of the way through the second leg, overtook Kirkland in pre-dawn darkness as the cars raced 547 kilometres (340 miles) through winding desert in the second third of the leg. Other drivers in the top ten Saturday were Kenyan Vic Preston Jr. in a Nissan 200SX with 3:47:21 penalty points, Sweden's Stig Blomqvist in a Volkswagen Golf GTT 16V, 4:51:39, Kenyan Ian Duncan in a Toyota Supra, 5:21:28, Italy's Alessandro Fiori in a private entry Lancia, 6:41:12, Denmark's Erwin Weber in a Golf, 6:54:10, and Kenya Jayant Shah in a Nissan 200SX, 7:45:48.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Graeme Hick to play Sheffield Cup

BRISBANE (R) — Worcestershire's Zimbabwe-born batting phenomenon Graeme Hick will play Sheffield Cup cricket for the Australian state of Queensland next season. Queensland Cricket Association chairman Allan Pettigrew said Hick, 22, who is serving out time in English county cricket until he becomes eligible to play for England in 1991, agreed to terms offered this week. "He's the type of person who will fit into the team perfectly," Pettigrew told reporters on Friday night. "I haven't met Graeme but the players who have say he's a very unassuming type." In the last English county season Hick smashed 2,713 runs for Worcestershire, an average of 77.51. His record included a brilliant 405 not out against Somerset.

Promoter says Nunn-Kalamhbay will fight only for IBF title

LAS VEGAS (R) — Michael Nunn and Sumbu Kalamhbay will fight only for the International Boxing Federation's (IBF) middleweight title this weekend, promoter Bob Arum said Friday. Arum, promoting the scheduled 12-round fight here Saturday, said he has been told World Boxing Association (WBA) President Gilberto Mendoza has refused to sanction the fight. That reversed Arum's statement Thursday when he said WBA lawyer James Binns had told him Thursday the WBA was sanctioning the fight. Neither Binns nor Mendoza could be reached for comment.

John Walker to retire

WELLINGTON (R) — Former world mile record holder John Walker said he would retire from athletics after next year's Auckland Commonwealth games. The 37-year-old veteran who won the gold in the 1,500 metres at the 1976 Montreal Olympics told a newspaper from his Auckland home he found it harder to motivate himself for the training necessary to retain his world-class form. "The sport is no longer the enjoyment it once was. I can remember the days when we used to go for a long, hard training run and then have a few beers and a barbecue and enjoy ourselves. There is not the same enthusiasm any more," he said. The first man to run 100 sub-four minute miles recorded a personal best in the distance earlier this month, winning a street race in New Plymouth in a time of 3:47.52 seconds.

French (fencing) champion cleared of dope charges

ATHENS (R) — The International Fencing Federation (IFF) Friday cleared French Olympic champion fencer (Jean-Francois) Lamour of dope charges. The IFF said at a conference in Athens the drug for which Lamour tested positive at a competition in Hanover last month was not on the International Olympic Committee's banned list. "The substance found in Lamour's urine... is among those that athletes are permitted to use. The IFF cleared the Seoul gold medalist of all dope charges and the matter is considered closed," the statement said. Professor Manfred Donike, head of the Cologne Institute for Biochemistry, said last week that Lamour's first urine test had revealed traces of folcodine, a cough medicine derived from codeine, a banned substance. Folcodine, however, is not on the IOC's banned list.

Barkley's night thwarts San Antonio

NEW YORK (AP) — Charles Barkley was perfect Friday night, hitting all 19 shots from the floor and the foul line in scoring 31 points and leading the Philadelphia 76ers to a 135-122 victory over the San Antonio Spurs. Barkley was 10-for-10 from the field, including two three-pointers, and 9-for-9 at the line. Mike Gminski added 27 points and Hersey Hawkins 21 for the 76ers. Frank Brickowsky led San Antonio with 26, connecting on 12 of 13 shots from the floor, and Vernon Maxwell had 22. Philadelphia outscored the Spurs 48-27 in the first period, tying the club record for most points in a quarter at the spectrum. Barkley had 19 points in the first 12 minutes as the 76ers converted 18 of 20 shots. San Antonio suffered its 14th straight road defeat and are 3-32 away from home. Dennis Johnson scored six of his 20 points in the last two minutes as Boston survived New York's comeback from an 11-point fourth-quarter deficit.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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YOU BE THE JUDGE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 6
♥ 8 5 3
♦ A 10 8 7 5
♣ 7 6 2

WEST
♠ 10 9 7 3
♥ Q 10
♦ J 6 4 2
♣ J 10

EAST
♠ 8 5 4
♥ K J 9 2
♦ Q 3
♣ K Q 9 5

SOUTH
♠ A Q 2
♥ A 7 6 4
♦ K Q
♣ A 8 4 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠
Follow the play of this hand. At the end, decide who, if anyone, is guilty of an error.

With his balanced hand, South elected not to bid his weak major suit in favor of the descriptive jump to two no trump. North's raise to game was automatic.

West led the top of his spade sequences. To preserve an entry to

dummy, declarer won in the closed hand. He had eight fast tricks, and the obvious place to establish a ninth was in diamonds. So he cashed the king-queen, crossed in the king of spades and tried the ace of diamonds. Since these maneuvers did not drop the jack, declarer had no way to fulfill his contract.

Have you reached a verdict? Declarer was guilty of a major lapse in technique. His line was correct if he needed five tricks in diamonds, but he required only four. With but one side entry to dummy, there was a far superior line to establish a fourth trick.

At trick two, declarer should cash the king of diamonds, then overtake the queen with the ace to lead a third round of the suit. That gives declarer three chances to set up a fourth trick in the suit: 1. If the diamonds are 3-3; 2. If either defender holds a singleton or doubleton jack; or 3. If either defender holds a singleton or doubleton 9! In the latter two cases, declarer simply forces out the defenders' remaining high card in the suit and he still has the king of spades as a dummy entry to cash the established cards in the suit.

English Soccer League

Arsenal thrives, Norwich suffers

LONDON (R) — Arsenal rediscovered their winning touch after a lean spell and stretched their lead at the top of the English soccer first division to six points as nearest challengers Norwich slumped to defeat Saturday.

Arsenal, who had nervously watched a healthy league advantage eroded over the past few weeks, snapped out of a spell of three games without a win by inflicting a 3-1 defeat on struggling Southampton.

Norwich suffered a severe setback in their chase for a League and Cup double when they were beaten 2-0 at home by relegation-haunted Newcastle United.

Millwall remained third after a 1-1 draw at Everton but left title-holders Liverpool, who have won their last six games, the chance of overhauling them Sunday if they win at Tottenham.

Arsenal lead with 59 points from 30 games, six ahead of Norwich, who have two games in hand, and nine clear of Millwall.

Perry Groves opened Arsenal's tally at Southampton after just seven minutes and England midfielder David Rocastle added the second 12 minutes into the second half.

Glenn Cockerill reduced the arrears in the 66th minute but Paul Merson, a second half substitute for Groves, sealed victory for Arsenal.

Brazilian striker Mirandinha scuppered Norwich, scoring the

first goal with a thumping right-foot shot in the 27th minute and supplying the pass for Irishman Liam O'Brien to net the second seven minutes after the interval.

Norwich, who swept into the semifinals of the Football Association (F.A.) Cup last Wednesday, might have suffered a more comprehensive beating in their first home defeat in seven games but for the agility of goalkeeper Bryan Gunn.

Groves began and finished the move which brought Arsenal their first goal at Southampton, hanging bome the rebound after England striker Alan Smith headed against the bar.

There was an under-current of ill feeling following the last clash between the two clubs last September when Arsenal's Paul Davis cracked Cockerill's jaw, and Southampton's Rodney Wallace was lucky to escape punishment when he caught Kevin Richardson in the face with his fist.

But the ugly mood was dissipated by a flurry of goals in the second half, sparked off by Rocastle, who scored with a left-foot shot in the 57th minute after taking a pass from Merson, five

minutes after Merson had come on as substitute.

Cockerill made it 2-1 nine minutes later with a stunning 25-metre effort but Merson netted 15 minutes from the end to ensure all three points went to Arsenal, who had managed only six out of a possible 18 in their previous six games.

Southampton, without a win in 19 games, are now bracketed with Norwich's conquerors Newcastle on 29 points, with only West Ham below them.

West Ham, who this week welcomed back striker Frank McAvennie from Scottish Premier Division club Celtic, scored a 1-0 win at Aston Villa thanks to a goal by Paul Ince in the 10th minute, but remain seven points adrift of their nearest fellow-sufferers.

Teddy Sheringham struck with a header after just 85 seconds to give Millwall a quickfire lead at Everton, but Kevin Sheedy equalised from the penalty spot in the 67th minute after Graeme Sharp had been fouled by David Thompson.

Steve Hodge and Lee Chapman scored a goal apiece to give Nottingham Forest a 2-0 away win over Derby, which kept Forest in fifth place.

Manchester United, knocked out of the F.A. Cup quarter-finals by Forest last weekend,

moved up to sixth with a home win over Luton, then contributed by Ralph Miller and Clayton Blackmore.

Soviets own testing lab at Seoul says Moscow youth paper

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet sports is riddled with steroid use, Olympic athletes even had a secret laboratory on a ship near Seoul to make sure their urine would pass doping tests, a Soviet magazine reported this week.

"On the ship 'Mikhail Sholokhov,' which was docked at kilometers (37 miles) from Seoul, there was an area that was probably even more heavily guarded than the reactor on a nuclear submarine. But it held not a reactor, but a \$2.5-million laboratory for doping analysis," the youth magazine Smena said.

Doping begins very early for many Soviet athletes, Smena said. At the most recent Olympics, dozens of cases of drug-use were discovered, it reported.

Lendl and Evert prevail

KEY BISCAYNE (R) — Top-seed Ivan Lendl had a brief struggle in the first set but came roaring back to defeat unseeded Italian Paolo Cane 7-5, 6-0, 6-4 in a third-round match at the 2.1 million-dollar international players' tennis championship Friday.

In women's third round singles, second seeded Chris Evert sharpened her form to defeat 20th seeded Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-3, 6-3.

The day's biggest upset was the defeat of ninth seeded Argentine Guillermo Perez-Roldan, beaten by his unseeded countryman Eduardo Bengoechea 6-7 (4-7), 6-2, 6-3, 6-2. The second-round match was suspended due to darkness with Bengoechea ahead two sets to one.

Tenth seeded American, Aaron Krickstein, went the distance again before defeating unseeded West German qualifier, Alexander Mronz, in five sets 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-7 (5-7) 7-6 (7-3). Mronz, ranked 290 double-faulted to give the 17th ranked American the victory.

Krickstein has won 14 of his 20 lifetime five-set matches. He is 5-0 in five-set matches over two years at the Key Biscayne event. The one hour and 52 minute contest between Lendl and Cane was interrupted once for a short rain shower after Lendl won the second set at love.

The Czech number one began confidently, taking a 4-2 lead in the first set, but Cane, who stayed with Lendl on the baseline returning the Czech's firepower, edged back to 4-4 with a break in the eighth game. Lendl regained control after a poor lob and a backhand error cost Cane a service break at 5-5, and Lendl served out the set 7-5 with a forehand volley.

The 67th-ranked Italian, with his long hair dyed black, was crushed 6-0 in the second set as Lendl served relentlessly to Cane's error-prone backhand.

After the rain delay, Cane regained determination at the start of the third set and stayed even with Lendl, both players holding serve easily until Lendl broke Cane at love with a forehand pass, to go ahead 5-4.

Lendl served out the match 6-4 with his 11th ace. "I just didn't feel that good about hitting the ball," said Lendl, adding that he had been bothered by the muggy weather conditions. "I just feel like sleeping all day today."

Lendl's opponent also gave him problems. "He strings his racket so low, I have a hard time reading his shots," Lendl said. Evert hit steadily from the baseline in the first set, cutting off the angles from her 31st-ranked opponent to win the set 6-3.

In the second set, Evert played looping high shots to Tauziat's backhand to throw the French player off her rhythm and break for a 4-2 lead in the second set. The American missed two match points at 5-2, with forehand and backhand errors as Tauziat held for 5-3.

The second seed then served out the match 6-3 with a forehand winner just as the skies opened for the fourth rain shower of the afternoon.

Connors still does it

Jimmy Connors won his third match in four days Friday night, beating Austria's Horst Skoff in straight sets to advance to the fourth round of the international players' championships.

Connors' 6-2, 7-6 (7-4), 6-1 victory highlighted the fifth day of the two-week tournament and followed a rainstorm that delayed the start of the match more than an hour.

"It's no fun sitting around waiting, but that's part of the game," the 36-year-old Connors said. "It doesn't happen very often, but when it does you have to deal with it."

Emilio Sanchez of Spain, the 11th seed among the men, and Zina Garrison and Helen Kolesi, the women's fifth and 11th seeds, also won after rain delays.

Sanchez defeated Sweden's Christian Bergstrom 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-3. Garrison whipped Laura Gildemeister of Peru 6-2, 6-1; and Kolesi rallied from a one-set deficit to beat Claudia Porwik of West Germany 1-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Rio heats wipe 8 drivers

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Eight drivers were eliminated from the Brazilian Grand Prix auto race in a qualifying heat before the start of time trials Friday.

The top five finishers in the heat qualified for the trials, but the field of 30 drivers will be further reduced to 26 for Sunday's race, the first of the formula-1 racing season.

The two drivers of the new Brabham-Judd team led the qualifying field, with England's Martin Brundle setting the quickest lap with a time of 1 minute, 27.764 seconds around the 3.1-mile (5.03-kilometre) Nelson Piquet track.

Stefano Modena of Italy was second in the other Brabham with a time of 1:28.147.

"The car is excellent, and the track is nice and grippy. I think we can finish in the top 10 in the race," Brundle said after the heat.

For safety reasons, the Paris-based International Federation of Auto Sports limited to 30 the number of cars in the time trials. The federation also created a ranking of drivers, with the top 20 pre-qualified and the rest competing for the remaining four berths in the trials.

One of the pre-qualified drivers, Philippe Streiff of France, dropped out after a serious accident in his A100-Breda during the tests here earlier this month.

The A100-Breda team of Streiff would be ineligible for this season's Formula 1 World Championship of Italy.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NELEK
MOAXI
DAHLEK
RASTIE

HIS FOOTPRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME LEFT ONLY THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the answer to the cartoon above.

ANSWER: THE OF A (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: SOUSE GASSY POLISH DETAIN
Answer: For that laconic collector, this was an obsession—POSSESSION

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Tension flares in Kosovo

UROSEVAC, Yugoslavia (R) — Yugoslav police used tear gas and batons against demonstrators armed with clubs and axes in the southern province of Kosovo Saturday, the third successive day of ethnic Albanian riots.

I saw thousands of protesters rampage through the town of Urosevac hurling rocks, vandalising cars and blockading a train. Helmeted riot police wearing gas masks chased demonstrators through the streets amid clouds of tear gas.

Airforce jets and helicopters screamed over the city, 240 kilometres south of Belgrade. Some protesters jumped on car roofs and ripped off windscreen wipers. The demonstrators were ethnic Albanian men of all ages. There were few women.

It was the third day of rioting in Kosovo in protest at curbs on local self-rule adopted Thursday that give Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest republic, control over the province.

The disturbances are the worst since Albanian separatist riots in 1981.

State leaders and a top army general warned Friday that "all constitutional means" would be used against further unrest. Yugoslavia's usual euphemism for troops.

Kosovo has been under a partial state of emergency for four weeks. Troops and tanks were sent in after a general strike by the province's majority ethnic Albanians against the curbs that they fear will wipe out their national rights.

Western diplomats in Belgrade said they believed the army sent in at least 10,000 men and 100 tanks when the emergency measures were declared.

The authorities are punishing ethnic Albanian strikers, saboteurs, shopkeepers and students for disrupting life in the province.

Official sources said hundreds

of miners and factory workers are being sacked or suspended without pay for refusing to work and some will be jailed for defying work orders.

Tanjug news agency said saboteurs had damaged the Golems magnesite mine near the Kosovo capital Pristina, 220 kilometres south of Belgrade, and legal action was being taken against them. It did not elaborate.

It said 25 Golems workers were ordered to serve 60-day jail terms for refusing to enter the pit.

Official sources said the Mitrovica zinc mines were also damaged and youths had tried to sabotage railway lines during the unrest.

They said 200 private shops in Kosovo's Pec district were ordered to close and padlocked by authorities. The owners faced fines for joining last month's strike.

Students who boycotted classes at Kosovo's university this week would be expelled or suspended or lose an entire year of academic credit.

Tanjug said most enterprises in Kosovo have resumed work but



Strikes were continuing at Golems and some factories.

Under constitutional changes adopted by Kosovo's parliament Thursday, Serbia gains control of the province's courts, police, civil defence and selection of officials. It will also have a free hand to alter Kosovo's status in the future.

Serbia says Albanian nationalists persecute Kosovo's 200,000 Serbian minority with the aim of breaking the province away from Yugoslavia to join neighbouring Albania.

Soviet Union holds rallies on eve of historic election

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet election campaign that unleashed impassioned public debate not seen in 70 years ended Saturday with nationwide rallies.

Sunday's election for a new-style parliament, offering voters a choice of candidate for the first time since just after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, marks a milestone in Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika" reform plans.

But the campaign also focused public criticism on Gorbachev's failure to solve elementary economic problems and food shortages emerged as a key source of discontent.

Rebel Moscow Communist Boris Yeltsin, whose growing

army of supporters rallied at the city's Olympic stadium Saturday, has tapped that dissatisfaction with calls for more radical reform.

But according to a Yeltsin aide interviewed by an Italian television reporter, the former Moscow party chief will not attend the rally.

"It is better to keep him out of the fray until the elections are over. That was suggested to us by various people," the Yeltsin aide said. He did not elaborate.

An unofficial poll by Soviet journalists suggests Yeltsin could win a resounding victory over the officially-backed party candidate for the Moscow seat in the New Congress of People's Deputies.

Yeltsin was ousted from the party's ruling Politburo in 1987 and stripped of his post as Moscow Communist chief for criticising the slow pace of Gorbachev's reforms.

Denounced by former colleagues, including Gorbachev, he now appears to be banking on popular appeal to regain a foothold in top-level Kremlin politics.

Moscow has witnessed two fervent pro-Yeltsin rallies this week, with his supporters railing against the symbol of conservatism in the Politburo — Yegor Ligachev.

According to some reports, Gorbachev cancelled plans Friday to speak at Moscow University, where the walls are plastered with Yeltsin posters.

Alaska oil spill potential nightmare for marine life

VALDEZ, Alaska (R) — A supertanker that ran aground has spewed millions of gallons of crude oil into the mouth of Alaska's Prince William Sound in the largest oil spill in U.S. history.

Officials said an oil slick spread over an area of 16 to 21 square kilometres posed a grave risk to marine life.

The U.S. coast guard said the Exxon Valdez went aground just after midnight Friday on a reef 35 kilometres south of this oil port, rupturing three cargo holds that spilled about 260,000 barrels — 11 million gallons — of crude.

"In U.S. history this spill is definitely the largest spill that we've ever had, whether from a tanker or well or from a pipeline," Richard Golob, an expert on oil pollution, told Reuters.

A spokesman for the 312-metre supertanker's owner, Exxon U.S.A., said "all the best technology we can find" was being assembled at Valdez to tackle the slick.

The massive spill posed an environmental nightmare to emergency clean-up crews, primarily because the area is easily accessible only from the air and sea and Prince William Sound has numerous pristine islands, channels, bays and icebergs.

"As a result the clean-up promises to be a potential nightmare as the spilled oil would undoubtedly wash ashore," Golob, publisher of the Golob Oil Pollution Bulletin,

said in a telephone interview from his base in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The coast guard said emergency crews were setting up booms to keep the oil out of protected areas.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation said the tanker spilled 160,000 barrels of oil soon after the accident and later leaked another 100,000 barrels.

A department spokesman said the spill would cause environmental damage in the sound, which is rich in aquatic life.

"Something that big is going to cause damage. How significant it will be we don't know at this time," he said.

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SDI satellite thunders into orbit

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — U.S. military officials say a \$140 million satellite has been successfully launched for a crucial experiment aimed at designing space weapons for the U.S. "Star Wars" missile defence system.

The satellite was launched on an unmanned Delta rocket which thundered from its launch pad at Cape Canaveral air force station at 4:50 p.m. (2150 GMT) and arced east over the Atlantic, slicing a trail of fire and smoke across the sky.

The flight's main goal was to place in orbit a military satellite, dubbed Delta Star, to monitor a series of six U.S. launches in an effort to design space-based

weapons capable of tracking and shooting down incoming enemy nuclear missiles.

Less than an hour after liftoff, military officials declared this first phase of the mission a success. "We have indication of a good, clean spacecraft (satellite) separation," launch commentator Skip Mackey said.

Air force Colonel Michael Rendine, manager of the Delta Star programme, said the three-ton satellite was operating flawlessly and had successfully completed its first task — tracking the fiery re-entry of the Delta rocket's second stage into the earth's atmosphere.

The satellite's timetable of six to nine months makes it the longest of three flights to be devoted to the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), a programme known as Star Wars, a programme initiated by former President Ronald Reagan to develop a U.S. shield against a nuclear missile attack.

The Star Wars mission blasted off nine days later than planned following a last-minute postponement March 15 due to technical troubles.

The launch came only three days after an unarmed Trident-II nuclear missile exploded four seconds after it was test fired from a submerged submarine off the Florida coast.

U.S. on 'new course' in Central America

WASHINGTON (R) — A compromise accord between President Bush and congressional leaders has the United States government "speaking with one voice" on Central America policy after years of bitter debate.

The accord, signed by Bush and top Democratic and Republican lawmakers at the White House Friday, unifies the White House and Congress in support of a Central American peace plan aimed at achieving a political settlement in Nicaragua.

It also provides for continued U.S. humanitarian aid to the contra rebels at present levels — roughly \$4.5 million a month for food, clothing, medicine and

other necessities — until scheduled elections are held in Nicaragua next February.

In Managua, Nicaragua's Sandinista government said it was disappointed with the new funding, while Honduras, which has hosted thousands of contra forces, welcomed it but denied agreeing to allow them to stay until next year.

Bush and Democratic Party leaders hailed the agreement on an issue that had polarised Washington.

"Today, for the first time in many years, the president and the Congress, the Democratic and Republican leadership in the House of Senate, are speaking

with one voice about Central America," Bush declared. Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell told reporters the words of the agreement "place the United States squarely in support of the peace and democratisation process undertaken by the Central American presidents."

Mitchell, who with Secretary of State James Baker, House Speaker Jim Wright, Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, House Democratic leader Tom Foley and House Republican leader Bob Michel stood at Bush's side, referred to a regional peace accord reached by the presidents in Esquipulas, Guatemala.

The presidents also agreed last month to the disbanding of the contras in exchange for pledges by Nicaragua to allow the rebels, most of whom are now in Honduran base camps, to return home and participate in free elections.

As part of the plan, the Managua government promised to release about 1,700 political prisoners.

"The United States is committed to working in good faith with the democratic leaders of Central America and Latin America to translate the bright promises of Esquipulas II into concrete realities on the ground," the agreement said.

Scientists sceptical of fusion experiment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists at major U.S. laboratories are sceptical that a low-cost experiment could achieve nuclear fusion, the energy secret of the sun which has been sought for 20 years by researchers who spent millions of dollars.

But some experts admitted Friday they also are intrigued by the University of Utah reports and at least one expert warned that if the experiment actually achieved fusion, it could pose a serious

radiation hazard. Some scientists also expressed a bit of envy.

"Suppose you were designing jet airplanes and then you suddenly heard ... that somebody had invented an anti-gravity machine. That's the way we feel," said Ian Hutchinson, a nuclear fusion researcher at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "And, of course, we're sceptical."

An Idaho laboratory announced Friday it was conducting experiments to confirm the Utah reports, and scientists at other laboratories said they were searching the literature to determine if others have performed the experiment. And all are waiting for more technical details expected to be published later this year in the journal Nature.

At a news conference Thursday, B. Stanley Pons, chairman of the University of Utah chemis-

try department, and Martin Fleischmann of the University of Southampton in England, said they achieved a sustained nuclear fusion reaction with equipment that is available in any college laboratory.

Pons said they were able to force atoms to fuse together at room temperature using a rod of palladium metal and a platinum cylinder immersed in a flask of deuterium, a chemical commonly called "heavy water."

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THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Ettenson

CHEERS

By Olive Duan

ACROSS

1. Head
2. Macadamized
3. Mophead's husband
4. Hair styles
5. Medical fever
6. Peace codices
7. Mistle
8. Camel skin
9. Squelch
10. More luck
11. Shovel
12. Automatic pistol
13. Start of verse
14. Root
15. Rich source
16. Hair pad
17. The season
18. Capture

DOWN

1. Outdo
2. Ripen
3. Prose
4. Key pinnacle
5. Pensive tower
6. Bedouin
7. Connet
8. Sp. month
9. Souther
10. Cones
11. Jay
12. Hay, month
13. E. sphagnum
14. Of top quality
15. Bangle
16. Pad
17. Augury
18. Chastetude
19. Adieu
20. Part of air
21. Soil

Diagramless

17 X 19, By Lisa Alameddine

1. West Coast time zone
2. Shakespearian play
3. Ray
4. Actor Greene
5. Teacher
6. Chastetude
7. Reduce to spray
8. Gulls
9. Secular
10. Star, region
11. Spinal irregularity
12. Heap
13. Discovery
14. Gambling game
15. Cried
16. Terminate
17. Reduce to spray
18. Gulls
19. Secular

DOWN

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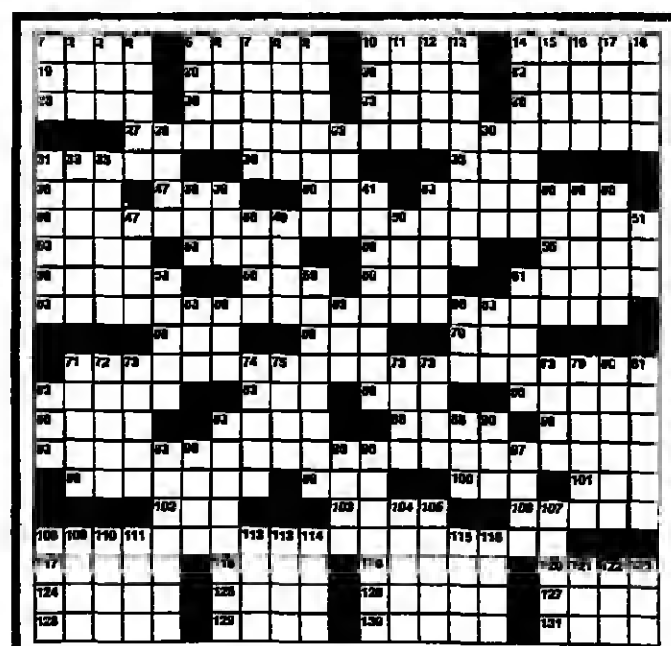
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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Determinations from fossils tell us Montana was once a sea! Recent droughts weigh against it.
2. With and modern greetings the "in" thing, are hearts and flowers still in fashion?
3. Can a flamboyant chief nourish with a flourish? Well, maybe so.
4. For farmer sold pods to old-time friends for one dime per pint.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. VTA OCAVAFUOX, AZ VFA ZR IZA VFA
STCKGV MFN STCKJOX JIZMI FN F
NIZVYCNK ECKGV —By Gordon Miller

2. OBERH, THE OB THH, OVV ACHLY SHOWVS
OWHI OVV TRUTHOVN TVVCT OB UV OVV
OWAIL OWHO NARIOT. —By Les Sherry

3. MDAAZNZ LBYTGDUZ GRNTS LAZZV
STUENT LVDURWEM AZMSEUJ, DW
YUNVZLLBU. —By Ed Haddleson

4. N MODEST CUT UX PLV UP YMT INDLOX
RMTX COESUR HTFL. —By Norton Rhodes

